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IranCrisis
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On metronews.ca
• Look back on how events have unfolded with stories, photos and video in our ongoing Unrest in Iran section

Sunny Side
Follow Metro's SunnySide initiative as we help you find the good news around Halifax and Canada.
On metronews.ca
• Share your SunnySide thoughts on Twitter using #sunnyside
• See what other readers are doing and saying

SameSex Marriage
With pride weeks now underway across the country, Metro Canada is taking a look at the state of same-sex marriages.
Today
• Rights vs rites wrong approach, pg 12
Monday
• An update on the status of same-sex marriages in other countries

On the web
Stay informed:
• Go to metronews.ca for your weekend news updates.

The final bow

The King of Pop, Michael Jackson, dead at 50

Michael Jackson, the child star turned King of Pop who set the world dancing, but whose musical genius was overshadowed by a bizarre lifestyle and sex scandals, died Thursday. He was 50.

Jackson was pronounced dead at 2:26 p.m. local time after arriving at a Los Angeles hospital in full cardiac arrest, said Fred Corral of the Los Angeles County Coroner's office. The cause of death was not known and an autopsy would likely take place Friday, he said.

Jackson was taken ill at home and his personal physician tried to resuscitate him but could not, his brother Jermaine told reporters. Jackson was taken by paramedics to the hospital, where doctors worked for more than an hour to try to revive him before pronouncing him dead, the brother said.

Known as the "King of Pop," for hits that included Thriller and Billie Jean, Jackson's dramatic, one-gloved stage presence and innovative dance moves were imitated by legions of fans around the world.

His lifetime record sales tally was believed to be around 750 million, and with his 13 Grammy Awards and boundary-breaking music videos he was one of the most successful entertainers of all time.

But Jackson's belief that "I am Peter Pan in my heart,"

his preference for the company of children, his friendship with a chimp, his high-pitched voice and numerous plastic surgeries also earned him critics and the nickname "Wacko Jacko."

Jackson led a

reclusive life after his acquittal in 2005 on charges of child molestation, the second time he had faced ultimately unproved allegations of abuse of young boys.

"For Michael to be taken away from us so suddenly at such a young age, I just don't have the words."

I've lost my little brother today, and part of my soul has gone with him," Quincy Jones, who helped arrange the music on the album

Thriller and produced the Off the Wall album, told MSNBC.

Jackson had been due to start a comeback series of concerts in London July 13 running until March 2010, and had been rehearsing in the Los Angeles area for the past two months. The shows for the 50 London concerts sold out within minutes of going on sale in March.

He was a "true musical icon whose identifiable voice, innovative dance moves, stunning musical versatility, and sheer star power carried him from childhood to worldwide acclaim," said Neil Portnow, president of The Recording Academy in a statement.

About 200 fans and reporters gathered outside the L.A. hospital. Some fans cried and hugged each other.

"I hope he's gone to God, and I hope that he's free of all the troubles he's been plagued with," Tonya Blazer, 50, who said she had been a fan going back more than four decades.

Dozens of fans gathered near Jackson's modest boyhood home in Gary, Indiana to pay their respects to the entertainer who left the city long ago. Some deposited flowers or toys and others blared his hit songs from their car stereos. Gary Mayor Rudy Clay called Jackson the "world's greatest entertainer" and said he had made the city proud.

In New York, fans gathered at the Apollo Theater in Harlem, singing Jackson hits and dancing in celebratory tribute.

**REUTERS
MORE COVERAGE, PG 10
ALAN CROSS' COLUMN,
PG 28**



"Michael Jackson showed me that you can actually see the beat." - Diddy

"I am greatly saddened ... Especially for his children." - Demi Moore

"I truly hope he is memorialized as the '83 moonwalking, MTV owning, invincible Michael Jackson." John Mayer

"Michael Jackson was my inspiration. Love and blessings." - Miley Cyrus

QUOTES FROM TWITTER.COM

Career Timeline

- 1968: The Jackson 5 signs with Motown Records.
- 1970: They become first group to have their first four singles hit No. 1.
- 1972: First solo album.
- 1982: Releases "Thriller" — which becomes best-selling album of all time.
- 1994: Jackson and Lisa Marie Presley are married.
- 2001: "Invincible" album debuts at No. 1.
- 2003 He is booked on suspicion of child molestation.
- 2005: Found not guilty in child-molestation trial.
- 2009: Tickets for Jackson's 50 London concerts sell out within hours.

For up-to-date coverage on his death, visit: metronews.ca

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Beaches opening Monday

You know it's summer when beach season arrives. All beaches in the Halifax Regional Municipality will officially open Monday. Most beaches in HRM are supervised from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. There will be no supervised swimming at Black Rock and Dingle beaches this summer. **METRO HALIFAX**

3

Local



Relief on the way for gas

Finally, a break at the pumps is coming. Gas prices were reportedly set to drop anywhere from three to six cents last night at midnight as the province set the new regulated price for the week. Regular self-serve gas was selling for 109.8 throughout the city Thursday. The price at the pump has slowly risen for the past several weeks, much to the chagrin of drivers. **METRO HALIFAX**

Officer bitten after noise complaint

CRIME A noise complaint got nasty Wednesday night when a drunken woman allegedly bit a police officer on the arm.

Halifax Regional Police said they showed up at a Stoneybrook Court apartment just after 11:30 p.m. to tell some people to simmer down after receiving complaints from neighbours. While they were at first successful in quieting the group, police said the woman "took issue" with officers sticking around and became verbally and then physically confrontational.

The officers wrestled with the woman and a 15-year-old girl who joined the melee in the hall outside the apartment, police said, adding that's when the woman bit an officer.

Police said they kept both accused in custody before they were to appear in Halifax provincial court Thursday. Both are charged with assaulting police and obstruction, but the woman faces one count of assault causing bodily harm, while the girl faces charges of uttering threats and breaching a recognizance order.

KRISTEN LIPSCOMBE/
METRO HALIFAX

News in brief

DEATH A Canadian Forces reservist was playing a game called "quick draw" when a gun went off, killing a fellow soldier in Afghanistan in 2007, recalled a close friend and self-described drinking buddy of the accused. Cpl. Matthew Wilcox, 23, from Glace Bay, is charged in the shooting death of Cpl. Kevin Megeney. **CAPE BRETON POST**

Harper has no issue with N.S. NDP

Cordial PM drops by Halifax to name Pier 21 site of immigration museum

PAUL MCLEOD
paul.mcleod@metronews.ca

Prime Minister Stephen Harper isn't worried about the NDP provincial sweep hurting the Tories in the next federal election.

"Each election at each level of government transpires for unique reasons," Harper told a crowd at Pier 21 in Halifax Thursday morning.

"My read of the provincial election here is that the issues were strictly provincial in nature." Harper was in town to announce that Pier 21 has been named the site of Canada's national museum of immigration.

Before the announcement, Harper got the chance to talk to meet and congratulate Premier Darrell Dexter, whose NDP party won 31 of 52 seats in the June 9 provincial election.

"I had a chance to talk to Premier Dexter last night.



Prime Minister Stephen Harper listens to a question from a reporter after announcing on Thursday Pier 21 will be the site of Canada's new national immigration museum.

We talked about obviously issues of mutual concern, in particular the managing of the economy," he said.

Dexter later told reporters he didn't anticipate any problem working with a prime minister

from a different party.

"Quite the opposite," Dexter said. "(Harper) went out of his way to say the political stripe of provincial governments really didn't matter at all."

Both leaders were pres-

ent at the Pier 21 ceremony. Pier 21 had already been named a national historic site. Now it will be Canada's sixth national museum, and only the second outside of the Ottawa region.

"(Stephen Harper) went out of his way to say the political stripe of provincial governments really didn't matter."

Darrell Dexter

The museum will be dedicated to recognizing the contributions of immigrants to Canadian culture.

The federal government will make an initial investment of up to \$10 million and put up to \$5 million towards the operation of the museum. The funding is in partnership with the Pier 21 Society, Pier 21 Foundation and Halifax Port Authority.

"We want to ensure that future generations will have access to our heritage, a working knowledge of the important tapestry of information that gave rise to our nation," said Atlantic Gateway Minister Peter MacKay.

Legislature reopens for new appointments

PAUL MCLEOD
paul.mcleod@metronews.ca

POLITICS The Nova Scotia legislature was back in session for a brisk 20 minutes or so Thursday.

The sitting was a formality in order to take care of some appointments by the new NDP government.

Pictou West MLA Charlie Parker was elected as Speaker of the House. He went through the traditional routine of being "forced" up to the speakers

chair by the three party leaders, where he will make about an extra \$44,000 per year.

He quickly donned his new robe and threw in a top hat for good measure.

Premier Darrell Dexter mixed things up by electing three deputy speakers, one from each party. John Hamm did the same thing when he was premier. The three will split the \$24,000-per-year bonus evenly between them.

The NDP selected Cape Breton Nova MLA Gordie

Gosse and the Liberals put forward Clare MLA Wayne Gaudet. The Tories gave the job to Cape Breton West MLA Alfie MacLeod, who was the previous speaker during the Rodney MacDonald government.

The mood in the house was downright jovial, with the MLAs of all parties cracking jokes from across the aisle.

But afterwards there was some serious discussion about when the house will be called back for a real session to debate this

year's budget. The NDP says it will likely be late September or October — halfway through the fiscal year — before a budget will be introduced.

"It's a matter of working through the financial details and getting back the audit information," Dexter told reporters.

Liberal Leader Stephen McNeil said that's too long considering the NDP will be mostly re-releasing the short-lived Tory budget. He called for a summer session.

metronews.ca

WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Read today's news highlights in Metro Snapshot
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Blogs Hollywood Rants on the promise of Woody Harrelson's upcoming horror comedy *Zombieland*



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Preparing for a historic event

Hundreds of sailors ready for the Queen's Colours ceremony

LESLEY PIKE
for Metro Halifax

Sunbathers on Citadel Hill were no doubt caught off guard Thursday when a Sea King helicopter landed on the bottom of the grassy hill.

They also got to see a parade of 400 sailors and musicians from the Canadian navy who stopped traffic from Sackville to North Park streets. The sailors and musicians circled the Halifax Common before finishing their march at the Halifax Armory on North Park.

All this pageantry was in preparation for the Queen's Colours ceremony, which takes place Saturday at the Garrison Grounds on Citadel Hill at 10 a.m.

The Queen's Colours is a flag given to the Canadian navy by the Royal family every 30 years. Canadian Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean will be at the celebration to preside over the event.

The navy has been preparing for Saturday's event for almost an entire year.

"We only do it every 30 years, so we want to do it well," said Cmdr. Brian Palmeter, who is based in Halifax and has helped in the planning of the event.

The navy hosts the



More than 400 sailors and musicians march down Ahern Avenue on Thursday in preparation for the Consecration of the Queen's Colour which will take place on the Garrison Grounds near Citadel Hill on Saturday.

event, however the maritime helicopter community will help out by flying at about 500 feet above Citadel Hill during the event.

"We're really excited about participating in the

event," said Capt. Iris Semeniuk, the co-ordinator of the Sea King aircrafts that will fly over the ceremony.

A total of 500 navy personnel will participate Saturday. There will be a

100-piece band and "lots of things happening, aircrafts flying overhead, there'll be artillery firing a 21-gun royal salutes," Palmeter said.

If you're around Citadel Hill Friday, you might

even get a sneak peak of Saturday's performances. Navy personnel plan to be rehearsing during the day for the ceremony.

"We want to make sure we're all co-ordinated," Palmeter said.

The early bird gets a good seat

CEREMONY People going to the Queen's Colours ceremony Saturday will have to wake up early to find a good spot to watch.

The Canadian navy is expecting about 10,000 people to come out to the event which begins at 10 a.m.

Cmdr. Brian Palmeter said people should be there by 9 a.m. to find a good spot on Citadel Hill above Garrison Grounds.

You won't be bored waiting for it to begin, either.

The navy will have an exhibit set up and a Sea King helicopter will be on display.

It also looks like the show will take place outside even if it rains.

"Bring a raincoat," Palmeter said. "We won't be wearing one, but that's OK."

There's no special parking for the event, but Metro Transit will have more buses and ferries running to help people get to Citadel Hill.

"I think the Governor General gets to bring her car and we'll find a place for it," he said.

LESLEY PIKE/FOR METRO HALIFAX

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Teen dies in motorcycle crash

FATALITY An 18-year-old male is dead following a single motorcycle accident Thursday afternoon on Lower Harmony Road in Colchester County.

Colchester RCMP say the accident occurred at 12:20 p.m. and the driver was found dead at the scene. Police say the motorcycle

left the road and no other vehicles were involved. The dead driver was the only person on the motorcycle.

Police are continuing to investigate the cause of the crash. The victims name won't be released until next of kin is notified.

The 18-year-old was a student at Cobequid Education Centre, and was to graduate Friday. CTV reported it was also his first day with his motorcycle licence and his parents discovered the body when they were out searching for him

METRO HALIFAX

Tons of construction planned on bridge throughout summer

REPAIRS It's going to be a summer of construction on the Angus L. Macdonald Bridge.

Halifax Harbour Bridges announced Thursday they are starting to resurface the approach spans on the bridge this Sunday, resulting in lane closures on weekday evenings from 7 p.m. to 5:30 a.m.

The release also said to expect full bridge closures on weekends starting July 3, closing Friday evening at

7 p.m. and re-opening Monday, July 6 at 5:30 a.m.

The only exception to the weekend closures is July 18 and 19, to accommodate the Kiss concert and tall ships festival, and August 1 and 2 for Natal Day celebrations.

The HHB anticipates work to continue until completion during Labour Day weekend, however weather may be a determining factor.

METRO HALIFAX

News in brief

STABBING A verbal dispute got ugly Wednesday evening in Halifax when one man allegedly stabbed another man in the arm. Halifax Regional Police said officers arrested the 18-year-old suspect and seized his knife near an apartment building on the 200 block of Willet Street around 7 p.m., shortly after finding the 21-year-old victim suffering from stab wounds on nearby Sheraton Place in Clayton Park. "The victim was found to have very minor ... cuts to his arm," police spokesman Const. Brian Palmeter said Thursday.

METRO HALIFAX

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metronews.ca

Weekend, June 26-28, 2009

6 local

'Hello mudder' it's summer camp season
Neptune Theatre is set to launch its summer camp program starting Monday. Camps run for one and two-week sessions to Aug. 21. **METRO HALIFAX**

The pipes and drums of Tattoo are calling

COLIN CHISHOLM
for Metro Halifax



A staple in Halifax for the past 30 years, the Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo showcased some of its performances and upgrades to its latest edition Thursday.

The 2009 Tattoo starts July 1 and will feature military bands, dancers and other performers.

Halifax native Ian Fraser is the show's longtime artistic director and said Thursday the new and improved technical systems will make the show bigger and better this year.

"In the technical sense, we've advanced the art beyond anything anyone in the world has been," he said. "We're leading the world in the quality of the technical equipment we have."

Fraser hopes the audiences enjoy the show, but also think about and have a greater respect for Canadian Forces currently serving in Afghanistan.

"One of the things we want to do is make the public aware with what's going on in the Canadian Forces," he said. "There is a tremendous amount of sacrifice being given by the young people."



German military drummers perform Thursday during a media event to promote the Nova Scotia International Tattoo, which is running at the Halifax Metro Centre July 1 through 8.

Global view

- There are nine countries represented in the show: They are Canada, Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Sweden, United Kingdom and United States.
- Tickets are on sale now and are available by phoning 451-1221 or online at ticketatlantic.com.

Fraser said one of the reasons the Tattoo is so important to Halifax is that all of the money raised with ticket

sales stays in the city. Organizers said the Tattoo brings in \$15 million more than all cruise ship traffic for a year.

Something new for this year's show is an American band that will bring the stars and stripes back to the Tattoo, something organizers said audience members have wanted for years.

When asked which part of the show Fraser was looking forward to the most he said, "people ask me that every year, and it's the one that's on the floor when they ask me," he said with a grin.

Plaskett opens for McCartney

Paul McCartney's concert at the Halifax Commons next month will have a local flavour to it.

The popular Halifax band Joel Plaskett and the Emergency have posted on their website that they will be opening for McCartney on the Commons. He also listed the news on his Facebook page, with one person responding on his wall, "I'd rather see you then (McCartney) ... congratulations."



Joel Plaskett

Metro Halifax reported earlier this month that show promoter Harold MacKay, president of Power Promo-

tional Events, was sending tapes of Canadian bands to McCartney, who was said to be picking his own opening acts.

Plaskett wrote on his website Wednesday "We are opening for Paul McCartney" on the Commons. He also listed the news on his Facebook page, with one person responding on his wall, "I'd rather see you then (McCartney) ... congratulations."

"It's just pretty exciting,"

"It's just pretty exciting. He's thrilled and I am, too." Bill Plaskett, Joel's father

Joel's father and fellow musician Bill Plaskett said Thursday. "He's thrilled and I am, too."

A phone message was left for MacKay Thursday but it wasn't returned. There's no word on other opening acts, and if they've been decided upon.

Plaskett's band is a multi-time East Coast Music Award winner, including as entertainer of the year this past March.

PHILIP CROUCHER/METRO HALIFAX

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News in brief

NATURE The Bay of Fundy will represent Canada in phase two of an international campaign to select the New7Wonders of Nature. The campaign began in 2001 with the goal of contributing to the protection of both natural and man-made heritage sites as well as raising awareness and respect for global cultural diversity. The campaign will gather votes online.

TRURO DAILY NEWS



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CBC News Online reports a man who says he's a member of the "Indian Nation of Turtle Island" is not exempt from Saskatchewan traffic tickets, a Regina judge has ruled. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Canada



Man charged in moose crash

RCMP in Sussex, N.B., have charged a man in connection with a car-moose collision that seriously injured a 32-year-old woman, CBC News Online reports. The woman remains in the intensive care unit at a hospital in Moncton. Police initially believed the woman was driving alone when the crash happened last week in Mechanic Settlement in Kings County. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Tories tops in new poll

POLITICS The Conservatives have regained the lead in public support after a showdown that put the main opposition Liberal party on the defensive, according to a poll released Thursday.

A weekly Ekos survey for the Canadian Broadcasting Corp put the Conservatives

at 34.8 per cent, up from 32.4 per cent last week. The Liberals slipped to 32.6 per cent from 33.7 per cent, while the left-leaning New Democratic Party was at 14.3 per cent, down from 16.3 per cent.

The Liberals pushed Canada to the brink of an election last week by

threatening to bring down the minority Conservative government unless it did a better job of explaining how it was tackling the economic crisis.

The Liberals then backed down, striking a compromise deal that fell far short of their initial demands.

REUTERS

A feast for all five senses.
CATCH, the Nova Scotia Seafood Festival.

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food network

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Susie Kinshella, sister of Mary Crawford, one of the 20 women Robert Pickton is accused of killing, speaks with friends outside the B.C. Court of Appeal Thursday.

Court upholds murder verdict

Serial killer Pickton's appeal rejected

JEFF HODSON
Metro Canada

Appeal

Serial killer Robert Pickton will not have a new trial, B.C.'s highest court ruled Thursday as it handed down a 2-1 decision dismissing his appeal of six second-degree murder convictions.

The decision was one of two parallel rulings on the Pickton case by the B.C. Court of Appeal.

The ruling means Pickton's case could be far from finished.

• The Crown had also appealed Pickton's acquittal in the six counts of first-degree murder, arguing that it was a mistake to sever the six counts from the 26 that he was indicted on.

Because the decision was split, Pickton — who received a life sentence in 2007 without the eligibility of parole for 25 years — can automatically appeal to the Supreme Court of

Canada.

No decision has been made yet about a future appeal, said Patrick McGowan, one of Pickton's lawyers. "It's a very long and complex set of reasons and that's going to take some analysis before the next step is decided on ... I don't know how long that is going to take."

Pickton's lawyers were seeking a new trial, arguing that the trial judge made several mistakes, including an error in instructions to jurors during their deliberations.

Politico threatens file seizure

PRIVACY Canada's outgoing information watchdog is threatening to seize documents from the Privy Council Office after complaints that the bureaucratic wing of the Prime Minister's Office is stonewalling some access-to-information requests.

The information com-

missioner served formal notice on the Privy Council Office (PCO) this week, warning that commission staff would use their legal powers to seize the documents themselves if the paperwork wasn't provided by today.

"I'm about to walk into PCO next week ... for files

they didn't give us. We're going to take them and they can't stop us," Robert Marleau told the Star.

"I cannot be denied access. I can walk into any federal government premise without notice and take what I need," he said in an interview.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



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10

The mystery of crop circles in poppy fields in Tasmania has been solved — stoned wallabies are eating the poppy heads and hopping around in circles. **REUTERS**

World

Controversy and eccentricity

Jackson likely to be remembered for both

Michael Jackson saw his musical versatility and head-turning dance moves propel him from child prodigy to solo superstar before child sex abuse scandals tarnished his reputation and his career.

News of Jackson's death broke as the 50-year-old singer was poised for a comeback with a string of 50 concerts scheduled to start in London July 13.

They were to be his first concert series for 12 years and were expected to earn Jackson more than \$400 million according to concert promoters AEG Live.

Jackson's fame reached a climax in 1982 with the iconic album and music video Thriller.

He sold an estimated 750 million records and won 13 Grammys throughout a career that spanned four decades.

But the moon-walking, sequin-gloved performer was beset by eccentricities that in 2008 had turned him into a virtual recluse with a mountain of financial woes. Concerns about his health had been rampant during his 2005 trial in California on charges of child sex abuse — at which



Pop star Michael Jackson poses after receiving the Legend Award at the MTV Video Music Awards Japan 2006.

he was acquitted — and in 2008 when he was photographed in Las Vegas in a wheelchair for reasons that were never explained.

Jackson was credited as the first black entertainer to gain a strong crossover following on music channel MTV.

But Jackson's belief that "I am Peter Pan in my heart," his preference for the company of children, his friendship with a chimpanzee

called Bubbles, his high-pitched voice and numerous plastic surgeries earned him the name "Wacko Jacko."

After two, ultimately unproved, allegations in 1993 and 2003 of sexually abusing young boys during sleepovers at his Neverland Ranch in California, Jackson never recovered the exuberance and musical creativity that marked his youth.

REUTERS

Alcohol kills half of Russians in prime: Study

RUSSIA Cheap and illicit alcohol kills more than half Russian men and women in their most productive years and the government must act urgently to reverse the trend, a study says.

"Excessive alcohol consumption in Russia, particularly by men, has in several recent years caused more than half of all the deaths at ages of 15-54 years," the article said. The research said "excess mortality from liver cancer, throat cancer, liver disease, and pancreatic disease is largely or wholly because alcohol caused the disease that caused death."

Russia's mortality rate in

30,000

Alcohol poisoning deaths in Russia each year.

people aged 15-54 years was more than five times higher for men and three times higher for women than in Western Europe, the study showed.

A UN report said in April that poor diet, leading to heart disease, heavy drinking and the high incidence of violent deaths may cut Russia's present population of some 142 million to around 131 million by 2025.

REUTERS

Ahmadinejad scolds Obama

IRAN Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad accused U.S. President Barack Obama on Thursday of behaving like his predecessor towards Iran and said there was not much point in talking to Washington unless the U.S. president apologized. Obama said on Tuesday he was "appalled and outraged" by a post-election crackdown. "Mr. Obama made a mistake to say those things ... our question is why he fell into this trap and said things that previously (former president George W.) Bush used to say," the semi-official Fars News Agency quoted Ahmadinejad as saying.

REUTERS

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Comment

'Rights' vs. 'Rites' wrong



Rabbi
Irwin Kula
Guest Columnist

During every cultural war, people of this country use religion to legitimize and re-affirm their pre-existing political, moral and psychological agendas.

Such is the case with gay marriage. Conservatives and liberals — the "rites" vs. "rights" groups — each cite various religious texts and values to support their own views.

Each side sincerely believes that by legitimizing their views with religious sources, they wield the ultimate trump card. However, this tactic merely renders religion irrelevant and ensures it does not contribute desperately needed wisdom to the public conversation. Neither side of this debate has been true to their professed values.

The "rites people" do not really care about the sanctity of marriage and the unconditional love and commitment to family values that such rites express and witness.

They are "freaked out" by the love shared by two people of the same gender, so they offer a hysterical, angry view that gay marriages will somehow undermine heterosexual marriages and family values.

If the "rites people" really believed society was better off when people committed to stay together, they would celebrate that more people in this country want to be in binding monogamous relationships. On the other hand, the "rights people" are equally hypocritical.



Rather than worry about the label of marriage, which evokes fiery opposition, the "rights people" should concentrate on ensuring that every single legal right straight married couples share is mandated for similarly committed gay couples.

But as much as they care about rights, they are really "freaked out" by not

having the affirmation of those who oppose them. They believe this affirmation will come with obtaining the legal right to call their relationship "marriage."

Instead of fixating on the rhetorical victory of the "marriage" label, they should focus on emptying the label of its content. Progress on human rights is always too fast for some and too slow for others.

Ultimately, equality comes not simply by fighting against each other, but from living together as family and friends and inevitably realizing that our differences are merely the mystery of life unfolding in all its variety. This movement is unstoppable, and paradoxically the rights and rites that now divide us will, in the end, bind us as a nation.

Rabbi Irwin Kula is the author of *Yearnings: Embracing the Sacred Messiness of Life*. He is currently the president of The National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership in New York City.



Views

McCartney presents paradox for protests

UrbanCompass



Paul
McLeod

metronews.ca/mcleod

Stephen Harper revealed an interesting story in a CTV interview Thursday.

Apparently Paul McCartney once called him and the prime minister really wanted to talk to the ex-Beatle about music. But McCartney was calling to discuss the seal hunt, so Harper declined.

Such is the dilemma of many Maritime Beatle fans that would otherwise love to see the July McCartney show in Halifax but are peeved at him for his campaign to shut down the

hunt.

Various online commentators have talked about sitting the concert out as an act of defiance.

HRM Coun. Steve Streatch, in a move that only makes sense to himself and the imaginary elves he presumably consults, even said the municipality shouldn't waive its noise bylaws because McCartney "has no regard for our heritage and our way of life in Atlantic Canada."

But even if you believe, as I do, that McCartney is championing a cheap political cause by demonizing a group of people he doesn't understand, it's still pointless to abstain from the concert.

Between 50 and 60,000 people will likely attend the show. A slight deviation downward in that number

isn't going to be attributed to seal hunt grudges. Promoters will factor it into the strength of the market.

The Rolling Stones drew about 50,000 people to the Commons, but they drew 80,000 to Magnetic Hill in Moncton the summer before. Obviously the Moncton show cut into the Halifax audience, but the two cities are still constantly being compared to each other as they compete for more shows.

McCartney isn't going to change his views and lower attendance just hurts Halifax's chances of bringing more big acts.

People who like McCartney but want to protest his seal hunt views are stuck with the same paradox as comedian Mitch Hedberg when he said, "I'm against picketing, but I don't know

how to show it."

As I write this column late Thursday the news broke that Michael Jackson was rushed to hospital and reportedly died.

As you can understand, I am crying like a baby. A baby that just learned the King of Pop has died.

Jackson was my favourite musician growing up. So this news is very much not OK. I wonder if Sir Paul will perform Say Say Say, his duet with Jackson in which the two play a pair of depression-era con artists.

Thanks for the music and the sweet dance moves, Michael. Now if you'll excuse me I'm going into mourning.

Paul McLeod is a staff reporter at Metro Halifax. He's currently in rehab for being a political junkie. It's going badly. Contact paul.mcleod@metronews.ca.



Letters

Marriage is not a standard for gays to measure themselves

Re: Metro's Same-Sex coverage

As someone who marched in many gay rights marches back in the 1970s, I would like to take issue with your coverage of the same-sex marriage issue. You would appear to take it as a given that all in the gay community are automatically in favour of same-sex marriage and view it as an important civil right, with only the most intolerant and prejudiced homophobes fighting against it. The truth is otherwise. In the 1970s, same-sex marriage was a non-issue for gay activists, and coming out a gay person meant accepting your identity and rejecting empty institutions (like) marriage.

We need to focus on true self-acceptance and not be fooled into thinking that the right to same-sex marriage is ultimately the true reflection of that.

REX LEONARD, HALIFAX

Credit to columnist's bravery

Re: Right to full-body veil (June 25)

Great insight into the niqab and burka. Thankfully, only a very tiny fraction of women wear these. Mona Eltahawy is very brave and sensible and should be congratulated for being forthright to express her views, even if some might not agree with her.

ANELA JADUNANDAN,
PICKERING, ONT.

Khamenei does not speak for Iranians everywhere

Re: Iran says vote will stand (June 25)

We (Iranians-Calgarians) really appreciate Metro Canada for keeping people up to date with Iran's crisis news. But I have one issue about a headline today's paper. I got so frustrated when I saw this title "Iran says vote will stand."

Who thinks (Ayatollah Sayyed Ali) Khamenei is equal to Iran? He is not even an Iranian.

NARGESS RABIEI, CALGARY

Tell us your views by email to halifaxletters@metronews.ca or comment on metronews.ca or on Twitter @metrohalifax

Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number — street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.

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Three hundred and eight years after a man named Cadillac founded what became Detroit, the birthplace of the modern auto industry is to lose the last downtown auto dealership that sells cars bearing his name. Dalgleish Cadillac was informed by General Motors in early June that it must close by September 2010. **REUTERS**

Detroit's last remaining Cadillac dealership facing the axe

Business

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EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

NFL Estefan, Dolphins shake fins



Pop singer Gloria Estefan passes the ball during an event at the LandShark stadium in Miami, Fla. Thursday. Estefan and her husband Emilio have become minority partners in the ownership of the NFL's Miami Dolphins.

BoA sued for discrimination

Bank of America Corp. was accused in a Manhattan federal lawsuit of discriminating against female brokers at the former Merrill Lynch & Co. by offering them lower retention bonuses than male counterparts.

Thursday's lawsuit seeks class-action status, and contends that female brokers were typically eligible for lower bonuses because of gender bias at Merrill, including the practice of steering wealthier clients to male

brokers.

Because bonuses were based on "production," or

favoured employees," the complaint said. Retention bonuses are often awarded

America has said it has about 15,800 brokers, most of whom came from Mer-

rill. Chief executive Kenneth Lewis has called the brokerage business the "crown jewel" of Merrill. The case was brought by Jaime Goodman, who has worked at Merrill since 1992. It said she has been a top-quintile performer and "a \$1 million producer for nearly a decade," but would have performed even better and gotten a higher retention bonus absent discrimination. **REUTERS**

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fees earned on client assets, the bonus distribution "disproportionately disadvantages women and advantages white men as

to brokers who work at companies being acquired to keep them from defecting, and top producers can reach seven figures. Bank of

for nearly a decade," but would have performed even better and gotten a higher retention bonus absent discrimination. **REUTERS**

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Bell, Telus may soon offer iPhone

MOBILE Wireless subscribers at Bell Canada Inc. and Telus Corp. who have been yearning for an iPhone may not have to wait much longer.

Sources say the two former phone monopolies are set to roll out a joint \$1-billion upgrade of their wireless networks as early as this fall, months ahead of schedule, that will allow them to support a range of GSM-based devices including Apple Inc.'s iconic iPhone, which is so far only available in Canada

Units moved

- A Rogers spokesperson said the cable giant sold more than 385,000 iPhones during the second half of last year.

through rival Rogers Communications Inc.

The buzz among industry insiders is that both Bell and Telus have negotiated deals with Cupertino, Calif.-based Apple, although one source suggested the price being paid "is

going to hurt."

Unlike other handset vendors, Apple has played hardball with wireless providers by dictating everything from the way new iPhone subscriber accounts can be activated to the device's \$199 price tag (16 gigabyte 3GS model) when purchased with a contract.

But analysts say Bell and Telus, like other carriers, have little choice given the popularity of iPhone among consumers.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICES

U.K. studio hopes to help T.O.

FILM Giant movie studio Pinewood Shepperton say it hopes to get the Toronto movie industry moving again by using their internationally known brand to funnel movies into Canada.

But local competitors cried foul Thursday over the city using taxpayer dollars to take an ownership stake in a new waterfront studio run by the British company, saying it may

put them out of business.

"We are competing with a major foreign studio who is running a taxpayer funded facility," said Peter Lucas, president of Showline Ltd., which has five studios in Toronto. "The city is providing benefits to a foreign player that they have not provided to us, which means the playing field has been tilted substantially." **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICES**

GM gets final OK for \$33.3B loan

BANKRUPTCY General Motors received final approval Thursday to borrow up to \$33.3 billion US from the U.S., Canadian and Ontario governments to carry the automaker through bankruptcy.

A federal bankruptcy court in Manhattan approved the final order for the loan, and denied a request by nonunion retirees for an official committee to represent them. GM had received interim court approval on June 2 to access up to \$15 billion of the financing. The order on Thursday cleared the way for GM to access the rest of the loan. **REUTERS**

Business in brief

MERRILL MERGER U.S. Federal Reserve chairman Ben Bernanke Thursday pushed back hard against accusations the Fed threatened Bank of America executives if they halted a merger with Merrill Lynch

or pressured them to withhold bad news about the troubled investment bank. The Fed has faced scrutiny and questioning from Congress regarding many of the actions it took during the financial crisis. **REUTERS**

Microinsurance helps the world's poor

Millions of people covered — on the cheap

Slum-dweller Krustin bin Juri lost everything when floodwaters swept through his home and shop on the banks of Jakarta's filthy Ciliwung river two years ago.

But when the next flood hits — and it will because Jakarta sees frequent floods in the rainy season — bin Juri may have a modicum of protection thanks to a low-cost insurance policy he purchased this month.

He is among millions of the world's poor who are covered for natural disasters by cheap insurance, or microinsurance, as com-

"Interest in microinsurance has been exploding throughout the world."

Craig Thorburn

mercial firms recognize that insuring the poor is not just good public relations but also profitable.

"Interest in microinsurance has been exploding throughout the world," said Craig Thorburn, a senior insurance specialist at the World Bank.

Thorburn has developed

microinsurance programmes and advises countries on insurance market development.

"New projects and proposals are being developed in more and more countries," Thorburn said.

"Government policy-makers are reviewing their regulations and the microinsurance sector does not appear to have been slowed by the crisis."

Microinsurance began as a form of charity in the 1990s, when the International Labour Organisation began experimenting with super-cheap policies.

REUTERS

Microsoft offers price deal on Windows 7

COMPUTERS Microsoft Corp. is to sell the standard home-user version of its new Windows 7 operating system for eight per cent less than the comparable version of its Vista system.

The new operating sys-

tem will be generally released on Oct. 22.

But it was to be available on pre-order from U.S. stores such as Best Buy, online Amazon.com and the firm's website from Friday.

Microsoft said it would

sell the Home Premium upgrade version of Windows 7 for \$49.99 US from Friday until July 11 in the United States.

After July 11, the pre-order price will be \$119.99.

REUTERS

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Former Saint Mary's athletic icon Robert (Bob) Hayes died yesterday at age 76. Hayes served at Saint Mary's from 1958 to 1992 as head coach of the football team and two decades as the school's first-ever director of athletics. **METRO HALIFAX**

Sports

EDITOR: CHRIS.CLEMENTS@METRONEWS.CA



Upshaw playing for Canada

Halifax's Christian Upshaw will play for Canada's men's basketball team at the 25th Summer Universiade in Belgrade, Serbia, from July 1 to 12. The third-year St. F.X. guard, who is the reigning Atlantic University Sport MVP, also has a spot on Canada Basketball's national development team. **METRO HALIFAX**

Dartmouth native cut by Argonauts

CFL Dartmouth's Gordon Sawler was among the victims on Canadian Football League cut-down day yesterday.

The Toronto Argonauts cut the St. Francis Xavier X-Men offensive guard as teams scrambled to get their rosters down to 53 players, including seven practice spots.

Darcy Brown of the Saint

Mary's Huskies was among those who survived the cuts. The sixth overall pick in May's draft was vying for a fullback job with the Hamilton Tigers Cats.

In other CFL news, former Saint Mary's all-Canadian defensive back Jeff Zelinski reportedly left the Saskatchewan Roughriders for school and work related reasons. **METRO HALIFAX**

Lions make trade with Crushers

HOCKEY The Halifax Lions have traded recently-acquired forward Dan Joyce to the Pictou County Weeks Crushers for forward Stuart Lenehan and future considerations.

Lions head coach and general manager Troy Ryan acquired the 20-year-old Joyce at last weekend's draft, touting him as one of the top three players in the Maritime Junior A Hockey League. But Ryan said Lenehan, a Dart-

mouth native, has the potential to be "top 10 scorer for the next two seasons." "He brings a great deal of speed and energy to our lineup," Ryan said. "He is a player of great character."

Lenehan, a former Cole Harbour McCain forward, had 30 points in 36 games for the Crushers last season and added seven points in 24 games for the P.E.I. Rocket of the QMJHL. **METRO HALIFAX**

Sports in brief

NBA DRAFT The Los Angeles Clippers selected Oklahoma standout forward Blake Griffin as the No. 1 overall pick in the NBA Draft, but the top 10 picks were mostly dominated by backcourt players. Memphis took Connecticut centre Hasheem Thabeet at No. 2, but there were seven guards taken

amongst the top 10. Toronto made Southern California guard DeMar DeRozan the ninth pick. Earlier, the New Jersey Nets dealt former Raptor Vince Carter and Ryan Anderson to the Orlando Magic for Rafer Alston, Courtney Lee and Tony Battie. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

'It's been awesome'

N.S. paddler excited about chance to make a breakthrough

MATTHEW WUEST
matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

Genevieve Orton has never raced at the world championships before, let alone in her own backyard.

So you can imagine the excitement on Lake Banook this weekend for Orton — and dozens of other Nova Scotians in similar positions — as world qualifying hits a crescendo with the national sprint canoe-kayak selection trials.

The Lake Echo native is enjoying a breakthrough season, capturing two silver medals with Canada's K-4 500-metre crew at World Cup events in Europe in the spring.

Another strong weekend on the water could get Orton to worlds, which are Aug. 13 to 16 on Lake Banook.

"I couldn't have asked for more — it's been awesome," said Orton, who had never been on an international podium as a senior. "It was really just getting into that (K-4) boat and proving I'm good at it. It was a huge, huge jump for me."

The trials serve as a warmup for worlds, but there is also plenty at stake.

A number of spots will be finalized by the end of the weekend, while the remainder will be determined at the final trials in Montreal



Genevieve Orton will be competing at the national sprint canoe-kayak selection trials on Lake Banook this weekend.

Nova Scotia's best hopes

Nova Scotia's best hopes at this weekend's Canadian sprint canoe-kayak team trials on Lake Banook. At stake are spots at the world championships from Aug. 13-16, also at Lake Banook. Action starts at 8 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

MEN

- Andrew Russell, Dartmouth (canoe)
- Shaun Fair, Waverley (kayak)
- Lyall Hatton, Bedford (kayak)
- Connor Taras, Waverley (kayak)

WOMEN

- Karen Furneaux, Waverley (kayak)
- Genevieve Orton, Lake Echo (kayak)
- Jillian D'Alessio, Middle Sackville (kayak)
- Una Louder, Dartmouth (kayak)

from July 17 to 19.

Orton and her peers want to use the weekend to not only qualify for worlds, but to build momentum for them.

"We're looking to make sure everyone has a good time here and set a bar high to let everyone know

we're going to be a force at the worlds — especially Nova Scotians," Orton said.

Orton's crew features Kia Byers and Olympians Kristin Gauthier and Emilie Fournel. Although they were only put in the same boat this spring, they've been an instant hit.

"We didn't know what to expect when we went to Europe, but things turned out far better than we thought they would," said the 25-year-old Dartmouth resident. "We showed we do have potential and hopefully we can keep it going."

All welcome on this field of dreams

TRACK AND FIELD From her muscular shoulders to her sweat-drenched singlet, Diane Roy's athleticism is there for all to see.

But for the veteran racer, it's long been the wheelchair others have focused on.

This weekend, however, for the third consecutive year, Roy, a 38-year-old from Hatley, Que., is participating in the Canadian track and field championships, an integrated event in which para-athletes and the able-bodied compete in events alongside each other.

"We're getting there, step by step."
Jason Dunkerley

"We've always known we're doing a real sport," said Roy, who lost the use of her legs as a teenager following an all-terrain vehicle accident and began wheelchair racing in 1992.

"But in terms of visibility, for the people watching, this makes us real athletes."

Canada, along with Australia and Great Britain, are "ahead of the curve" globally in integrating their na-

tional track and field championships, said David Greig of Athletics Canada.

This weekend, about 85 para-athletes — in wheelchairs, using prosthetics, visually impaired or with cerebral palsy — are competing at the Varsity Centre at the University of Toronto, and they represent about 10 per cent of the competitors in the championships.

For Roy, who won a silver medal and two bronze at the Paralympics in Beijing in 2008, the event underscores that everyone's focus is on ability, not disability.

"We're making progress,"

said Jason Dunkerley of Ottawa, a visually impaired runner who competes with the assistance of a guide and won the 800 metres in two minutes 4.07 seconds.

"We're getting there, step by step," said Dunkerley, whose younger brother, Jon, 29, is a fellow Paralympian who competes in the same class in the 100, 200 and 400.

"But the fact they have integrated the nationals — sharing the meet and the track and the weekend — sends a message well beyond the stadium."

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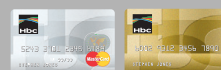
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The Cleveland Cavaliers completed a blockbuster trade Thursday, bringing superstar centre Shaquille O'Neal from the Phoenix Suns to join current MVP LeBron James. The Cavs are sending centre Ben Wallace and swingman Sasha Pavlovic to the Suns, along with a second-round pick in the 2010 draft and cash. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Cav-a-Shaq

All-star coaching staff

MATTHEW WUEST
Metro Canada



Hockey has been described as a game of inches, but Mike Babcock is looking at it as a game of 200 feet.

Officially unveiled yesterday as head coach of the Canadian men's hockey team for 2010 Olympics in Vancouver, Babcock discussed his blueprint for the

team — one that is committed without the puck and plays the full length of the rink.

In other words, don't expect to see many one-dimensional players on the list when Babcock and his staff unveil the 44-man summer selection camp roster in the next 10 days.

"We're not looking to bring apples and make oranges," the Detroit Red

VANCOUVER 2010 Games

Wings head coach said in a conference call yesterday. "We're going to bring the guys who do on a regular basis what we expect the Canadian Olympic team to do."

Babcock sat down with assistant coaches Ken

Hitchcock, Lindy Ruff and Jacques Lemaire on Wednesday night and reviewed a list of selection camp candidates assembled by general manager Steve Yzerman over the past season.

Some of the hardest decisions will be down the middle. Sidney Crosby, Mike Richards, Vincent Lecavalier, Joe Thornton, Eric Staal, Ryan Getzlaf and



Team Canada's 2010 Men's Olympic hockey head coach Mike Babcock poses for a photo op with his assistant coaches Jacques Lemaire, Lindy Ruff and Ken Hitchcock Thursday in Montreal.

Marc Savard are just the beginning of the star-studded list of centre-ice talent.

But Babcock said he won't hesitate to pick more centres and have them play out of their natural position.

"Steve (Yzerman) played on the wing in 2002 and he was a centre his whole life," Babcock said. "Good players just play the game and understand how it should be played."

While there will be plenty of emphasis placed on the summer camp, the staff will spend the first part of 2009-10 evaluating players, particularly younger ones.

Canada's staff will make the ultimate call, but Babcock said it's up to the players to prove their worth.

"They're going to decide who's on the team," he said.

Hockey Hall of Fame should look past stats



Field of Play
Scott Russell
metronews.ca/fieldofplay

It's hard to argue with the players who've just been selected to hockey's Hall of Fame. Leetch, Yzerman, Robitaille and Hull. It doesn't get much better than that.

But where's the magic? Where's the imaginative touch distinguishing the institution as something more than a place where those who've accumulated the best numbers over their careers find the key to unlock the door?

Hockey is the ultimate team game. Why isn't there a willingness to include the teams that have defined the sport for many generations of fans? One could think of both squads that played in the 1972 Summit Series, a confrontation that assumed an exalted meaning for the game and for the time in which it was played. The gritty Canadians persevered, but the surprising Soviets served notice that they were a force to be reckoned with.

It was the most famous set of games ever played. It featured three consecutive game winning goals by one player, Paul Henderson, whose name is familiar with most fans. Yet, neither the team nor the

player is included in the Hall of Fame.

The "Miracle on Ice" Americans who won the Olympic gold medal at Lake Placid in 1980 are not in the Hockey Hall of Fame. Yet their improbable victory against the seemingly indestructible Soviet Union is the stuff of legend.

Hockey is about more than just individuals who score the most goals or win the most Stanley Cups. It is about mythology and tall tales. It should be about the characters that have made the game great and wonderful.

To that end, the Hockey Hall of Fame needs to be more inclusive, indeed imaginative, in selecting those who reside in the shrine for all time.

Not only should the great teams merit consideration but so too should the women who have pioneered a boom crossing the lines of gender. Players like Angela James and Cassie Campbell.

And one more thing, love him or hate him, Don Cherry is the most famous person in hockey. He is a character who has forged much of hockey's folklore.

These are the kinds of people who should gain entry to hockey's Hall. Their inclusion would ensure that all of our memories of a beloved game are filled with magic.

Scott Russell is the Host of CBC Sports Weekend seen Saturday afternoons. He has covered professional and amateur sports including nine Olympic games and numerous world championships.



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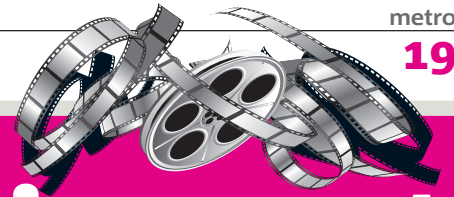
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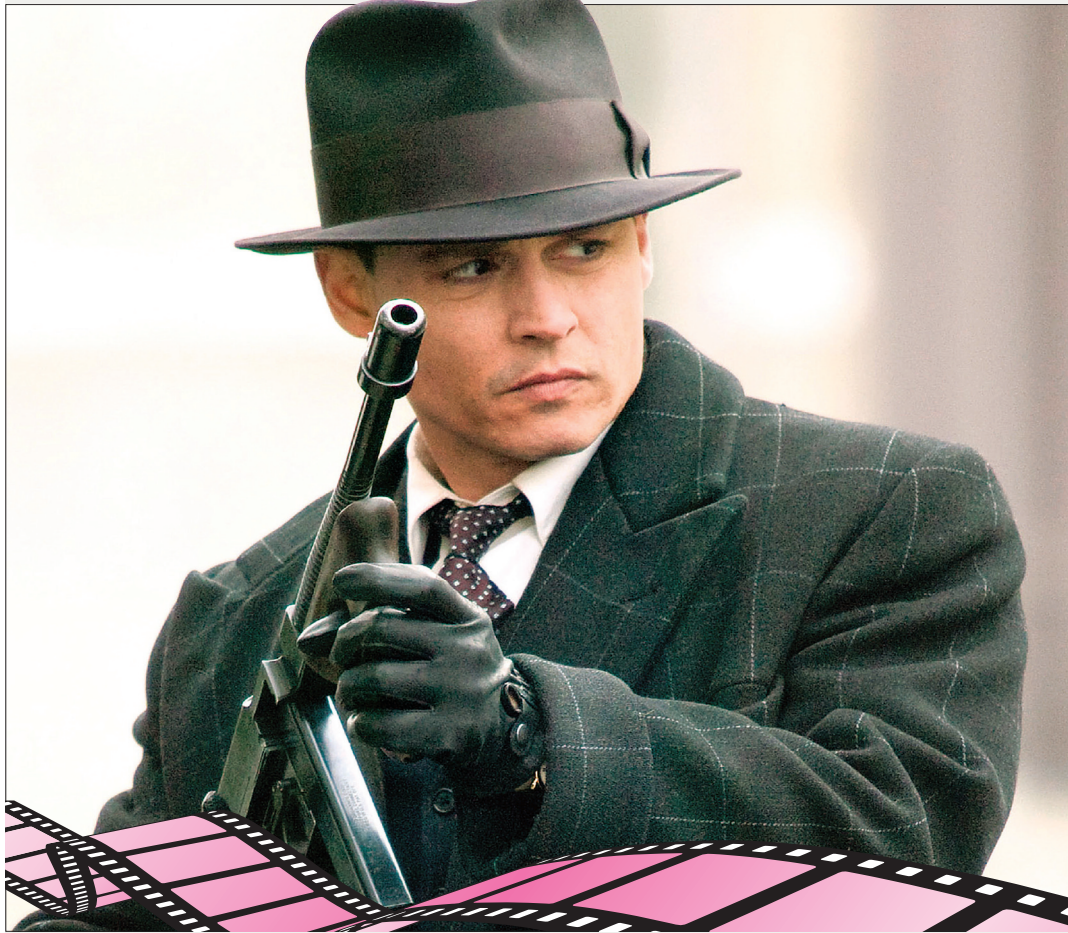
Movies & Entertainment

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Movies

Celebrity outlaw

Pg 22



Johnny Depp has made a career out of embodying larger-than-life characters, making oddballs completely relatable. In his latest film, *Public Enemies*, Depp takes on the role of celebrity outlaw John Dillinger, someone he found he could easily relate to.

Movies

Pg 23



My Sister's Keeper has only one goal: To make you cry.

Music

Pg 26



Alexisonfire has grown up and only gotten better.

Television

Pg 29



Don't get it wrong: Costello is definitely not a journalist.



"EMOTIONAL, RIVETING, POWERFUL!"

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my sister's keeper

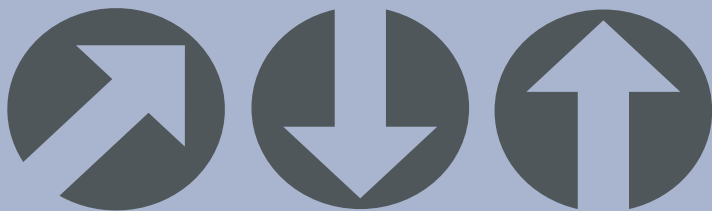
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Movies

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Johnny's got a gun

Celeb outlaw Dillinger
Depp's latest avatar

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News



Movie feature

Johnny Depp doesn't know what time it is. Though he technically calls an adorable village in France home and owns an island in the Caribbean, the mercurial actor spends so much time working that his internal clock is all out of whack.

"I've been on location for so long that I don't know what time zone I'm in. I could be in Puerto Rico at the moment," he says before adding with a thoughtful grin, "I still sort of am."

Depp has made a career out of embodying larger-than-life characters, making oddballs completely relatable. He has a surprisingly low number of turkeys on his packed resume from the last 25 years.

For every The Ninth Gate or Don Juan Demarco, there are plenty of films like Donnie Brasco, Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas and What's Eating Gilbert Grape — and that's even before getting into his work with Tim Burton.

"Most people when they



Johnny Depp plays larger-than-life criminal John Dillinger in Public Enemies.

hear Tim give me direction or we're talking about the character on the set, people are baffled, completely befuddled," Depp says of the director he's worked with on some of his most famous roles.

They're working again now, too, on Burton's take on Alice in Wonderland, in which Depp plays the Mad Hatter.

In his latest film, Public Enemies — out next week — Depp takes on the iconic role of celebrity outlaw John Dillinger, someone he found he could easily relate to.

"Dillinger was handed the ball and he just ran with it, which isn't any different than what happened to me a very long time ago," Depp explains.

"You're handed the ball, and you go as far as you can go until somebody says, 'Alright, Kid, you're done. Get off the ride.'"

But that doesn't seem like it will happen any time soon for Depp, not with Alice coming down the pike, plus talk about a fourth Pirates of the

On the web

• For movie trailers, photos and screen times, visit metronews.ca/movies.

Caribbean film. The success he's enjoyed has been immense — there is that private island, after all — but it has its draw backs.

For instance, he can't exactly go wherever he wants without getting noticed. But Depp accepts the necessity of it. "I suppose the alternative is the real drag, that if there's no attention then the job goes away," he says reflectively.

Still, there must be some things he'd like to do that he can't at his level of celebrity.

"I'd walk through Disneyland with my kids. I'd go on every ride," he admits.

"Daddy walks through Disneyland with them now, things get weird."

Public Enemies hits theatres next week

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metro

Alba buys rights to graphic novels

Jessica Alba, no stranger to comic book adaptations, is reported to have acquired the screen rights to *The Insiders*, a series of graphic novels created in 2002 by Jean-Claude Bartoll and Renaud Garreta. EMPIREONLINE.COM

**Movies**

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Sister's Keeper a crying shame

My Sister's Keeper**Director:** Nick Cassavetes**Stars:** Cameron Diaz, Abigail Breslin**Classification:** PG**Rating:** ●●●

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News



Nick Cassavetes' latest film is a cold, unfeeling tear-jerking machine, unrelenting in its quest to make you reach for the tissues. It pushes every button it can think of to get the waterworks going, not because the emotion of the story demands it, but because watching a movie like this, you're just supposed to be crying.

The story is a tricky one,

a complex tale of sacrifice and compromise in the face of terminal disease. After finding out their second child (newcomer Sofia Vassilieva) has a rare form of leukemia, a couple (Cameron Diaz and Jason Patric) make the controversial decision to have another child (Abigail Breslin), a "donor child," in an effort to keep the other alive.

And it works, but requires the youngest to endure multiple operations, bone marrow extracts and hospital stays. At age 11, after being asked for a kidney, she says enough is enough and hires a lawyer (Alec Baldwin) to sue for medical emancipation.

The real tragedy is that's

some meaty subject matter that could make for very compelling, multilayered storytelling exploring the complexities of the situation. But that's not what we get. Instead, we get a relentless tear-jerking machine.

The focus here is on the family,



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naturally, but it's too played. Every character — including Baldwin — gets a chance to narrate, just so the audience doesn't miss a single nuance that a bet-



Cameron Diaz, left, and Abigail Breslin star in *My Sister's Keeper*.

ter movie would have managed to communicate without resorting to six or seven narrators. The whole mess is framed by Vassilieva going

through a book of collages she's made of her life — which would've been a neat framing device, except the movie proceeds to flit around through time with no way of telling the audience they've just jumped, say, two years back. By the time you figure out where a scene fits in the chronol-

ogy, the next one has already started.

It's tough to fault Diaz, Baldwin, Patric or any of the young actors involved. They all try valiantly to make the best of it, but the material is working against them. What could have been poignant and complex comes off shrill, saccharine and cynical.

• For *My Sister's Keeper* photos, a trailer and screen times, visit metronews.ca/movies.



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Peter Howell, THE TORONTO STAR

"BULLOCK AND REYNOLDS ARE TERRIFICALLY APPEALING AND COMICALLY ATTUNED."

Kevin Williamson, TORONTO SUN



For Theatres and Showtimes: Check local listings

24 movies & entertainment

Transformers: Revenge Of The Fallen, Michael Bay's mega-sequel, grossed a record \$55 million US on Wednesday, its opening day in North America, beating the previous title-holder, Harry Potter And The Order Of The Phoenix, by \$10.8 million. **EMPIREONLINE.COM**

Movies

★★★★ A CLASSIC; ★★★★★ EXCELLENT; ★★★ GOOD; ★★ FAIR; ★ POOR

New cut of Watchmen clocks in at 25 minutes longer

SCREENINGS The director's cut of Watchmen, featuring an additional 25 minutes of footage and the death of a supporting character, will

receive a limited theatrical rollout during the weekend ahead of its July 21 home-video release. The superhero saga,

which was considered to be a bit of a box office disappointment during its first go-round in March, will screen in Los Angeles, New

York, Minneapolis and Dallas. The rollout will culminate with a special screening July 25 at Comic-Con International. **REUTERS**

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Critically acclaimed director Steven Soderbergh says all his films "feel commercial" when he's making them.

Soderbergh's misses still worth a look

InFocus

Richard Crouse

metronews.ca/infocus

You'd be hard pressed to find a movie fan that hasn't seen the Steven Soderbergh films Traffic, Erin Brockovich and at least one of the Ocean's movies.

A little more eclectic, but still popular are The Limey and Out of Sight, two of the director's box office near-misses. Mainstream films like those, though, comprise only a fraction of the director's resume.

Since his breakout film Sex, Lies and Videotape in 1989, Soderbergh has directed 19 films (including his latest The Girlfriend Experience), but only a handful — usually the ones starring George Clooney or Julia Roberts — could be called blockbusters. Many others have, however, languished.

Here's a couple of the director's deserving films that didn't set the box office ablaze.

Soderbergh said that "all attempts at synopsizing (Schizopolis) have ended in failure and hospitalization."

With health card in hand, here goes: Schizopolis is a surrealistic look at two people who can't communicate. As the level of emotional detachment increases so does the weird stuff.

There's an exterminator (David Jansen) who only speaks in non sequiturs and near the end Soderbergh's

character (he's a triple threat here as actor, writer and director) only speaks in overdubbed Italian, Japanese and French.

Even the director acknowledges that this is an eccentric film, noting that the only people who ever ask him about it are "the ones with the crazy look in their eyes when I go to festivals."

1993's King of the Hill is more accessible but still made less than \$1.5 million at the box office. Based on a 1972 memoir by A.E. Hotchner, it's the story of a 12-year-old boy surviving and thriving on his own during the Great Depression.

One IMDB contributor called this "the best American film of the nineties," while another wrote "Spielberg, eat your heart out, this is a real feel good movie."

Rent it for its unsentimental storytelling and great performances, particularly from Adrien Brody who plays the main character's surrogate big brother.

Other interesting Soderbergh movies still waiting to grab an audience are the Spalding Gray monologue film Gray's Anatomy and the suspense story Kafka, but no matter how odd or how low budget these films are, don't get the idea Soderbergh doubts their commercial appeal.

"When I'm making them," he says, "they all feel commercial to me. It's no joke. If I'm making a movie for a million bucks, I feel like this thing could blow up. It's happened before."

Richard Crouse's Movie Show can be seen every Sunday at 6:30 p.m. on the E! Channel; mrchaos33@hotmail.com.

This week's new releases are highlighted in pink.

Screen Times

THIS PAGE COVERS MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., JUNE 26 TO THURS., JULY 2. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. COMPLETE LISTINGS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT METRONEWS.CA/MOVIES.

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902-876-4800**Angels & Demons** (14) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 6:40-9:45**Easy Virtue** (STC) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 12:20-3:40-6:45-9:50**The Hangover** (14) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 12:30-1:35-3:55-6:50-7:15-9:45-10 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 1:35-7:15-10**Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs** (G) Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 12:30-1:35-7:10-9:45**Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs 3D** (G) Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 12:30-1:35-7:10-9:45**Imagine That** (G) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 12:45-3:55**Land of the Lost** (PG) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 12:45-3:45**My Sister's Keeper** (STC) Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:25-3:40-7:10-9:50**Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian** (STC) Dolby Stereo Fri-Sat 1:10-4:05-6:55-9:40**The Proposal** (PG) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri-Sun 12:35-1:05-4:15-7:15-9:50-10**Public Enemies** (STC) Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 12:05-12:25-3:30-5:50-6:50-7:10-9:50-10:10**Star Trek** (PG) Dolby Stereo Fri-Tue 12:30-3:40-6:55-9:50 Dolby Stereo Wed-Thu 6:30-9:50**The Taking of Pelham 123** (14) Dolby Stereo Fri-Thu 1:05-3:45-6:40-9:35**Terminator Salvation** (STC) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 7:10-9:55**Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen** (STC) Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 12:15-12:45-1:30-4:15-4:30-7:8-8:30-9:10-15**Up** (PG) Dolby Stereo Fri-Tue 12:40-

3:40-6:45-9:40 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:35-5:57-9:30

WWE: Great American Bash (STC) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Sun 8**Year One** (14) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 1:15-4:05-7:05-9:45 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Wed 1:30-4:15-6:50-9:35 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Thu 12:15-3:30-6:50-9:35

IMAX

190 Chain Lake Dr., Bayers Lake
902-876-4800**Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen** (STC) Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:35-6:30-9:40

OXFORD THEATRE

6408 Quinpool Rd.
902-423-7488**Away We Go** (14) Fri 7-9:30 Sat-Sun 2:40-7-9:30

Mon-Tue 4:20-7-9:30 Wed 2-4:20-7-9:30 Thu 4:20-7-9:30

PARK LANE

5657 Spring Garden Rd.
902-423-4860

The Hangover

(14) Stadium Seating

Fri-Sat 12:50-

3:50-6:40-9:10

3:50-6:40-9:10-11:40

Stadium Seating

Sun-Thu 12:50-3:50-6:40-9:10

Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs (G) No Passes, Stadium Seating

Wed-Thu 12:30-3:6:30-9

Jaws (STC) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating

Fri-Sat 11:30

My Sister's Keeper (STC) Stadium Seating, No Passes

Fri-Sat 12:40-3:30-6:50-9:20-11:50

Stadium Seating, No Passes

Sun-Thu 12:40-3:30-6:50-9:20

The Proposal (PG) Stadium Seating, No Passes

Fri-Sat 1:30-4:20-7:30-11:45

Stadium Seating, No Passes

Sun-Thu 1:30-4:20-7:30-11:45

Public Enemies (STC) Stadium Seating, No Passes

Wed-Thu 12:15-3:20-6:40-9:50

The Taking of Pelham 123 (14) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating

Fri-Tue 1:10-3:45-6:30-9:45

Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating

Thu 1:10-3:45-9:45

Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen (STC) No Passes, Stadium Seating

Fri-Sat 12:12-40-3:10-4-6:20-7:45-9:40-11:20

No Passes, Stadium Seating

Sun-Tue 12:12-40-3:10-4-6:20-7:45-9:40

No Passes, Stadium Seating

Wed-Thu 12:30-10-6:20-9:40

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Year One (14) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating

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Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating

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Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating

LOWER SACKVILLE

LOWER SACKVILLE

760 Sackville Dr., Downsview Plaza
902-869-2022**The Hangover** (14) Stadium Seating

Fri 2:50-6:50-9:15 Stadium Seating

Sat-Sun 12:50-3:10-6:50-9:15

Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 2:50-6:50-9:15

Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs (G) Stadium Seating, No Passes

Wed-Thu 2:45-6:45-9:10

My Sister's Keeper (STC)

Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating

Fri-Tue 3:50-9:15

My Sister's Keeper (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes, Stadium Seating

Fri-Thu 12:45-3:45-6:30-9:20

Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating

Fri-Tue 1:6-6:25

The Proposal (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes, Stadium Seating

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Star Trek (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating

Fri-Tue 12:15-3:15-6:15-9:15



Music

Metro recommends

• **Spinnerette, Spinnerette:**

Punk diva Brody Dalle's new band blends Pink-like pop with ferocious guitars and fuzzy-bass beats.



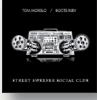
• **The Ecstatic, Mos Def:**

Mos' poetic flow weaves through smooth beats from Madlib and J Dilla and a mix of globe-spanning samples.



• **Street Sweeper Social Club, Street Sweeper Social Club:**

Tom Morello's Rage-guitar riffs collide with Boots Riley's rhymes for a funk-metal/hip-hop hybrid.



METRO NEWS SERVICES

Alexisonfire still chirping

Screamo band learning to mellow out with age

BRYAN BORZYKOWSKI
for Metro Canada



"With the wives, out go the groupies," says Alexisonfire's lead screamer George Pettit, just days before the band released its fourth album *Young Cardinals/Old Crows*.

While the Hamilton-based vocalist sounds like he might be reassuring his wife that he'll be a good boy on the road, he's also expressing just how much the band has grown up in the eight years since it stormed MuchMusic's airwaves.

When the group first began touring in 2002 the band members were known as much for their hard partying ways as for their aggressive, hardcore-meets-emo sound. But now, close to a decade later, the band is older and wiser.

"We were kids when we wrote that first record," says Pettit. "Over time everything changes. We have this wealth of travel behind us, we've spent years on the road living in a van, we have wives, houses and more adult responsibilities."

All that translates into less debauchery on the road, and that's fine with



Young Cardinals/Old Crows, the new album from Alexisonfire, was released this week.

Pettit. "Those things are fun in their own right, but if you're into music strictly to screw groupies and get drunk, that's a very superficial reason to be involved."

"What keeps us here is not the wild lifestyle," he adds. "It's more about the spiritual journey that is loving music and trying to have that never-ending thirst for new records."

Moving from fast living rockers to property tax paying husbands, can turn a once exciting act into a safer, watered down ver-

sion of itself (see Gavin Rossdale, David Usher), but if anything, the opposite has happened with Alexisonfire.

The band's music is somewhat tamer than it used to be — Pettit's throaty yells have given way to almost scratchy singing — but the music is more complex, and Dallas' smooth vocals are cleaner and catchier than ever before. It's easily the group's best album yet, and while some might miss the frantic, youthful energy, the more focused, thoughtful

Alexis has created something that, finally, transcends the screamo tag.

"Screaming paints yourself into a corner," says Pettit. "I'd been trying new stuff in the jam space and when it came time to recording demos I just tried to see how many songs I could do with this type of vocals. It felt really good."

To get to where they wanted to be musically, the band had to make changes to more than just its sound. In the past members would rush through

recording sessions, but this time they spent eight months writing. Pettit says the longer timeframe meant less mistakes and stronger songs.

"When I look back on our older records, if we thought about those songs for longer they would have turned out very differently," he explains. "With this, there's not a lot that really irks me. Or, maybe in a couple months from now I'll hear something and say maybe I shouldn't have done that. But right now this is great."

TOP 10 MOBILE DOWNLOADS

1. I Know You Want Me Pitbull
2. Boom Boom Pow Black Eyed Peas
3. Fire Burning Sean Kingston
4. Day 'N' Nite Kid Cudi
5. I'm On A Boat Lonely Island
6. Kiss Me Thru The Phone Soulja Boy
7. Knock You Down Keri Wilson
8. Birthday Sex Jeremih
9. Right Round Flo Rida
10. Gotta Feeling Black Eyed Peas

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Music

Forget all the jokes: Jackson mattered

SoundCheck

Alan Cross

metronews.ca/soundcheck

Yesterday, June 25, 2009, will be remembered just as we remember April 8, 1994, for Kurt Cobain; December 8, 1980, for John Lennon; and August 16, 1977, for Elvis. Michael Jackson carried that kind of cultural clout.

Forget the lurid allegations, the buying of the Elephant Man's bones, the hyperbaric sleeping chambers, the plastic surgery and the dangling babies. Here's how we should remember Michael Jackson:

First, people forget that the Thriller album essentially saved the recording industry when it was released in 1982. Suffering from the

double whammy of the post-disco sales depression and a brutal recession, Thriller almost single-handedly resurrected the music industry.

Sure, it sold somewhere north of 50 million copies on its own, but its real value lay in the fact that this record got people into record stores again where they bought it — and one or two other albums.

This one album went a long way towards pulling the entire industry out of some desperate doldrums.

Thriller was also sprung upon the public at the same time as the compact disc. Because Quincy Jones' production was so tight and

crisp, CD copies of Thriller were used as demo discs for CD players, speakers and amplifiers.

Who knows how many

Cartney for a large portion of the Beatles catalogue. The revenues generated by those holdings went a long way to support his lifestyle for the

to sell a product as crass as shoes? Today, though, you can't turn on a TV without hearing a major artist's music on a commercial.

And finally — and most importantly — let's not forget that Michael Jackson broke the colour barrier on MTV.

Before Thriller, MTV showed nothing but rock and pop videos featuring white faces. Initially, MTV re-

refused to run the clip for Billie Jean. It wasn't until Walter Yentnikoff, president of CBS, Michael's record company, threatened to pull every artist on their roster from the young channel — MTV had only been on the air since August 1,

1981, with just 250 clips in its library — that they relented.

Had it not been for the power of Michael Jackson and Thriller, would have MTV become the same cultural monster? And where would have people gone to learn about then-new artists such as Prince?

Speaking of videos, think about how Jackson furthered that art form: John Landis directed the 14-minute Thriller video; the morphing technology first seen in the clip for Black or White; the reported \$8 million US spent on the five-minute video for Scream with his sister Janet.

Let's therefore not focus on the tabloid stuff. The man did enough that we should remember him for the great, groundbreaking talent that he was.

The Ongoing History Of New Music can be heard on stations across Canada. Read more at ongoinghistory.com and exploremusic.com

billions of dollars of gear was sold once people heard the opening drumbeat from Billie Jean coming off a CD?

Michael Jackson was also once a pretty shrewd businessman. In the '80s, he managed to outbid Paul Mc-

rest of his life.

And speaking of which, Jackson broke a major taboo when he licensed the Beatles' Revolution to Nike for a TV commercial. People forget what kind of outrage followed. Using a popular song

the clip for Billie Jean. It wasn't until Walter Yentnikoff, president of CBS, Michael's record company, threatened to pull every artist on their roster from the young channel — MTV had only been on the air since August 1,

Condo Corner

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Rosie to launch daily show

Heading back to the air in a brand new setting, Rosie O'Donnell will be heard and not seen. The familiar TV face is launching her own daily, two-hour show for Sirius XM Radio this fall, to be called Rosie Radio. **PEOPLE.COM**

Television

Musical connections

Elvis Costello gets artists to open up on talk TV show Spectacle

BRYAN BORZYKOWSKI
for Metro Canada

Elvis Costello wants you to know one thing — he's not a journalist.

That's obvious of course, he's a legendary British musician who's been creating brilliant rock music since 1977, but now that he hosts Spectacle, a talk TV show on CTV, some might mistake him as a newsman instead of a musician.

"Music journalists make assumptions about performers and their motivation because they stand outside of things," he says on the phone from New York. "These days in particular there's a problem of opinionating because everyone can publish now. I'm not interested in doing that."

Costello is more focused on how his guests make music and the challenges they've overcome. He asked Rufus Wainwright about being pegged as a gay musician and got Tony Bennett to reveal that he passed up the chance to record the Louis

Armstrong hit *What a Wonderful World*.

He also jams with his guests, playing alongside the Police and Spectacle's co-producer Elton John. It's likely he'll perform with Smokey Robinson on the last episode of the season, which airs tonight.

The renowned guitarist, and husband to Canadian jazz musician Diana Krall, says it would be strange if he didn't sing on the show. "If I set myself up as a chat show host, or the new king of late night, that would be different," he explains. "I'd be taking up a new career, but I'm not. I'm speaking as a musician to another musician."

Being an artist is, says Costello, a major asset for the job. He explains that he can connect with his guests on a level that other non-musician interviews can't because he knows the job from "the inside."

"I don't play piano like Herbie Hancock, but I do understand the inside of it," he says. "So the willingness to open up is



British musician Elvis Costello hosts CTV's Spectacle.

probably based on that. And I'm not trying to fit their answer into a preconceived thesis about them."

This season Costello's guests have mostly been music stalwarts such as Lou Reed, Kris Kristofferson and James Taylor, but he has had on younger acts, including Jenny Lewis, Wainwright and duo She & Him. While that's a pretty diverse list of performers, he does wish he could interview more newbies.

"Do I wish we could have more young artists? Yes, I wish we could," he says. "With them we base it more around musical

performance because there's less to reflect on and those artists were less comfortable talking about their motivations."

While Costello says he "has a high regard" for all his guests, there was one interviewee this season that really stands out: Bill Clinton. "For him to take an hour out of his wife's busy presidential campaign to talk about music was fantastic," he says. "It was a genial interview, it was relaxed. I didn't feel I missed an opportunity to grill him, because that's like getting into the ring with Muhammad Ali. And besides, I wasn't there to make myself look clever."

Spectacle's last episode, featuring Smokey Robinson, airs Friday night.

Oscar's new best-picture rule

FILM If ever there was a time that the town needed a jolt of adrenaline, Wednesday was it — but from, of all places, the staid, mostly predictable Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences?

What everyone thought would be another sleepy announcement about an arcane rule change in the documentary or foreign language category turned into the headline of the day — opening up the Oscar race to 10 best picture nominees.

The rationale is not that hard to fathom: The awards telecast has been dwindling in the ratings for a decade; at the same time, folks have been carping about the tilt of the noms — too arty, too downbeat, too too — or the exclusion of comedies or the relegation of animation to its own category.

Some had even hazarded aloud that, of all things, the Golden Globes were

"Think (Academy president) Sid Ganis has a great marketing mind and that this is a brilliant move."

Michael Levine,
media consultant

the guys with the right idea, even if their 10 best pic noms are bifurcated by genre.

Most folks were gobs-macked by the news, with many — think all those filmmakers who believe their films have been snubbed — applauding the stratagem. As for wannabe Oscar consultants, now is the time to hang out that shingle.

"I think (Academy president) Sid Ganis has a great marketing mind and that this is a brilliant move," media consultant Michael Levine said.

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Entertainment

An angel in life dies, 62

Farrah Fawcett succumbs after long battle with cancer

Actress Farrah Fawcett, the Charlie's Angels television star whose big smile and feathered blond mane made her one of the reigning sex symbols of the 1970s, died on Thursday after a long battle with cancer. She was 62.

Fawcett, first vaulted to stardom by an alluring poster of her in a red swimsuit, was diagnosed with anal cancer in late 2006. It spread to her liver in 2007, proving resistant to numerous medical treatments in Germany and California.

"After a long and brave battle with cancer, our beloved Farrah has passed away," Fawcett's longtime companion, actor Ryan O'Neal, said in a statement.

"Although this is an extremely difficult time for her family and friends, we take comfort in the beautiful times that we shared with Farrah over the years and the knowledge that her life brought joy to so many people around the world."

Fawcett's death in a Los Angeles hospital came just



Farrah Fawcett.

six weeks after the TV broadcast in May of a video diary she made chronicling her battle with cancer and her final months.

Called Farrah's Story, the documentary was effectively a self-penned obituary by the actress, who was bedridden and had lost her famous hair by the time it was shown.

O'Neal said she had wanted to tell her story on her

own terms.

Fawcett, born Feb. 2, 1947, in Corpus Christi, Texas, was an art student in college before she began modelling, appearing in shampoo ads.

She started guest-starring on TV in the late 1960s and appeared on the television hit The Six Million Dollar Man after marrying the show's star, Lee Majors, in 1974. The couple divorced

in the early 1980s.

ANGEL CULTURE

Fawcett's career took off thanks to a poster of her posing flirtatiously with a brilliant smile in a red one-piece bathing suit. It sold millions of copies and led to her being cast in 1976 in Charlie's Angels, an action show about three beautiful, strong women private detectives.

As the tanned and glamorous Jill Munroe — part of a trio that included Jaclyn Smith and Kate Jackson — Fawcett was the hit show's most talked-about star.

SERIOUS ROLES

While Fawcett's early career was marked by lightweight roles, the actress sought to play down her sex symbol image in more challenging dramas in the '80s.

She earned critical acclaim for her performance as a battered wife in 1984's The Burning Bed, for which she received the first of three Emmy

nominations.

The off-Broadway play and subsequent film Extremities, in which Fawcett played a woman who takes revenge on a would-be attacker, earned one of her six Golden Globe nominations.

She had one son, Redmond, with O'Neal.

REUTERS

Fox News set to enjoy best year yet for ratings

Fox News is on track to have its most-watched year ever, showing significant ratings growth despite having just come off a highflying election year.

With the second quarter coming to a close, Fox News averaged about the same number of viewers as the top three other cable news networks combined. And while rivals including CNN (down 22 per cent) and MSNBC (down 18 per cent) took hits following last quarter's inauguration-fueled boost, Fox News (down 3 per cent) remained nearly steady.

Compared with last year, the Fox News (averaging 2.1 million viewers, 509,000 adults aged 25-54 quarter-to-date) is up both 35 per cent over last year in prime-time viewers and 48 per cent in the demo. CNN (805,000 viewers, 210,000 in the demo) fell both 16 per cent in viewers and 29 per cent in the demo. MSNBC (787,000 viewers, 259,000 in the demo) climbed 15 per cent in viewers and was about on

par in the demo. And CNN Headline News (553,000, 201,000) showed very strong growth, up 39 per cent and 37 per cent, respectively, and is on track for its best second quarter.

The new standings are strong enough to rank Fox News third behind USA and TNT among all ad-supported cable networks for the quarter among primetime total viewers. In its core demo, Fox News had eight of the top 10 cable news shows. It had similarly sunny increases for total day, while CNN and MSNBC were roughly on par with last year.

Earning double-digit growth after an election year is quite a feat for a news network. With Fox News best known for such right-leaning personalities as Sean Hannity and Bill O'Reilly, one might assume having a Democrat in the White House somehow helps boost viewership.

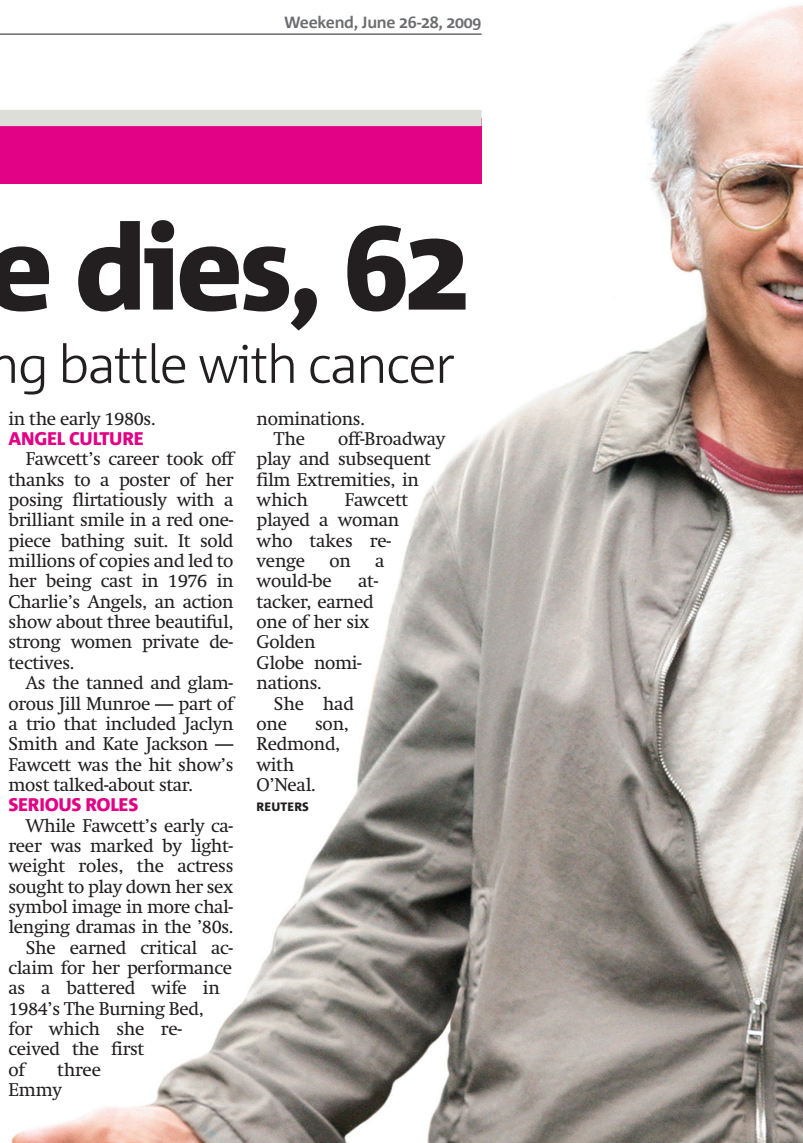
A dominant political party indeed can fuel the popularity of opposing voices — Comedy Central's The Daily

Show With Jon Stewart and The Colbert Report and liberal online news hubs Huffington Post and Daily Kos came to prominence during George W. Bush's tenure, just as talk-radio conservatives like Rush Limbaugh and news sites like Drudge Report rose during the Clinton years.

But it's important to note that when Fox News took the ratings lead during the Bush era, some pundits declared that the network was winning only because a Republican was in charge. Those at the network get weary of outsiders assuming their success must be due to some fortunate external factor rather than their own day-to-day work.

"I don't look at who occupies the White House, I just look at it as news," said Bill Shine, senior VP of programming at Fox News. "How well are you going to report on that news? And certainly, over the course of the last 10 years, we've done a better job at that than anybody else."

REUTERS



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Whatever Works

a new comedy

IN THEATRES JUNE 26



Paul Gross plays a gunslinger who stumbles into a Canadian hamlet in *Gunless*.

Western turns north

Gross brings the action to Canada with *Gunless*

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada



By portraying everything from a Mountie in TV's *Due South*, to a Canadian war hero in his epic drama *Passchendaele*, Paul Gross has become a national treasure. However, in his latest project,

the actor is putting his reputation on the line by playing the part of an American.

"It was the only way I could be a gunslinger," says Gross recently on the movie set of *Gunless* — which just finished filming in British Columbia this week. "There were no Canadian gun-slingers (called) The Saskatoon Kid. I don't think we had them."

As a result, Gross had to settle as The Montana Kid in director Bill Phillips' latest comedy. A fictional tale about an American outlaw who stumbles into a sleepy Canadian hamlet, it sees the Kid struggle with an im-

pending gunfight in a town that doesn't even supply bullets.

"I've always loved westerns. I've always loved the idea of taking what is very much an American genre and pushing it north of the 49th parallel," says Phillips. "Given our sense of irony and sometimes our sense of envy of

America, we can poke fun of ourselves."

As such, Phillips took his production to arid Osoyoos, B.C., where his crew not only constructed an impressive small-town in the middle of a remote hillside, but they began filming under extremely hot and dusty conditions.

"We made a very pointed decision to come to Osoyoos," adds Phillips. "That was a bit of a daring move because it's a Canadian film with a Canadian budget and it takes a lot to pull this off. But we decided to put our eggs in this basket and we're glad we did because anywhere we point the camera, it looks great."

While decked out in layers of thick, black clothing under an oppressive sun, Gross agrees that working on such a set is amazing. But he also insists that some days — he was definitely earning his paycheck.

"The first time you put (the costume) on, it's kind of fun. (But) in 100 degree heat with a three-piece wool suit, less so," Gross laughed before adding, "But it's a dry heat."

Gunless is scheduled for release in spring 2010

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FIGHTS On Keri Hilson's song 'Turnin' Me On,' she suggests she's been ghost-writing for another artist, and tells an unnamed foe to move "to the left." When the song came out a few months ago, a giddy blogosphere responded with a collective "aw snap!" as she showed her claws; Hilson, it seemed, had released a diss record.

Even though it set off only a minor furor and a yawn (mostly because she seemed to be referencing Ciara and/or Beyoncé but, when pressed, said she wasn't) Hilson had the dubious distinction of becoming the latest singer to engage in the uncharted sport of R&B beef.

Of course, we all know hip-hop beefs. Yet as hip-hop has moved into the realm of pop/dance music, its ethos that you must always stomp out your enemies in song seems to have trickled down to a crop of young (and apparently gangsta) singers.

The list of R&B beefs has grown to staggering, if not laughable heights: Usher has taken shots at Chris Brown. Ne-Yo and Trey Songz had a spat. Etta James dissed Beyoncé. Mariah Carey's song *Obsessed* takes shots at Eminem. Jamie Foxx and Terrence Howard got into a feud after Howard dissed Foxx's music.

And we can't ignore how ridiculous the Black Eyed Peas' spat with blogger Perez Hilton was earlier this week.

Naturally, some rivalry

among entertainers is to be expected. Yet the general reaction among the people hearing

beefs unfold is that there's something fundamentally absurd — so West Side Story — about seeing song and dance singers squabble.

"It's ridiculous to think of guys and girls singing about love and tenderness who dance in choreographed motions as tough," says Rashaun Hall, an entertainment journalist who has worked at Billboard, MTV News and Giant magazine before launching his own blog, rashaunhall.wordpress.com.

Feuds

- Nelly Furtado has dissed Fergie.
- Usher has taken shots at Chris Brown.

Paris Hilton is has been busy finding a new BFF in Dubai, but she made time for some adventures. Hilton went to Saif Belhassa Driving Center and "drove a hot red Lamborghini" and then headed to Ski Dubai for some indoor skiing. **POPEATER.COM**

Paris' Dubai adventures

Television

Going for the big guns in HBO's Hung

Life for basketball coach and teacher Ray Drecker (Thomas Jane) is in the crapper.

His team can't win a game, his wife (Anne Heche) left him, his twins are annoying adolescents, his neighbour is harassing him, and his home has just burned down. And all of this is happening in Detroit, where, as Drecker puts it, is "the headwaters of a river of failure."

But when life gives you lemons, make lemonade. When an HBO show gives you this setup, go for your big guns.

For those living in caves, Hung — premiering Saturday at 10 p.m. EDT — is not the heartwarming adventures of an Asian family. It's a description of Drecker's sole useful asset. So when he meets with former one-night stand Tanya (Jane Adams as a

self-righteous temp whose previous moneymaking idea was to put poems inside bread), they both get excited over the concept of pimping him out. Because, you know, he's hung.

That's a lot of setup, and it's easy to be of two minds about it. The basic concept — that these two entrepreneurs can make a bundle pimping Drecker out because he's a big man down below — is ludicrous be-

yond sitcom and scientific standards. Dirk Diggler was a porn star; Boogie Nights never indicated that he was the greatest lover in the world.

But try to be more Ray than Tanya on this: The show is pretty darned funny, especially once you get past the 45-minute pilot and into the half-hour regular episodes (smaller is better, actually). The leads are a classic screwball cou-

"Hung is not the heartwarming adventures of an Asian family. It's a description of (the protagonist's) sole useful asset."

ple, washed out and made handgloved by the system but fighting back in their own uniquely American fash-

ion. Co-creator Dmitry Lipkin (The Riches) again raises his unique periscope to peer into the darker corners of suburbia, crafting characters worth following even at their most repulsive.

Of course, this can't end well, and one of the pleasures of Hung is watching ambitious but not-too-bright people dig their own graves. Let's just say the ride is worth it. **REUTERS**

Cibrian joins CSI: Miami

NEW ROLE Eddie Cibrian, who kept the tabloids busy recently because of an alleged affair with country singer LeAnn Rimes, will join the cast of CBS' veteran crime drama CSI: Miami as a series regular.

He will play a new character, an officer from the LAPD division who joins the team in Miami.

CSI: Miami begins its eighth season in the fall. In the seventh-season finale's

cliffhanger, the life of forensic team member, Eric Delko (Adam Rodriguez), was left hanging in the balance. According to the show's producers, Rodriguez will return next season.

Cibrian next stars in the Hallmark Channel's original movie Healing Hands, playing an ordinary guy who gains the ability to heal people with his hands after an accident. **REUTERS**

FRIDAY	HA	H	D	B	7:00		7:30		8:00		8:30		9:00		9:30		10:00		10:30		11:00	
prime time	6/26/09	31	31	31	ABC	News	ABC News	Inside Edition	Chronicle	Surviving Sub.	Goode Family	According-Jim	According-Jim	20/20								
		7	7	7	ASN	The Road to Avonlea	Instant Star	TMZ (N)		The Net ** (1995, Suspense)	Sandra Bullock.											Spectacle
		11	11	11	CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	Air Force	Laughs	Wild Roses (DVS)		CBC News: The National (N)		The Hour								
		32	32	32	CBS	News	Evening News	The Insider	Entertainment	Ghost Whisperer		(10:01) Flashpoint		NUMB3RS								
		6	6	6	CHH	Entertainment	ET Canada	NUMB3RS (HDTV)		The Unit "Inside Out"		NCIS "Cover Story"		News								
sports	6/26/09	9	9	9	CJCH	etalk	Hollywood	Spectacle: Elivs		Ghost Whisperer		Castle (HDTV)		News								
		36	36	36	FOX	Deal-No Deal	The Simpsons	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Virtuality (2009, Science Fiction)	Nikolaj Coster-Waldau.		Fox First									
		12	12	12	NBC	News	NBC News	Hollywood	Extra (N)	The Chopping Block (N)		Dateline NBC										
		55	55	55	SCOR	(6) HSR		Poker Challenge		WWE SmackDown!				Soccer: U-21								
		53	53	53	TSN	Off the Record	SportsCentre	2009 NHL Entry Draft (HDTV) From Montreal, (Live)						SportsCentre								
cable variety	6/26/09	16	16	16	A&E	CSI: Miami "Whacked"		CSI: Miami "10-7"		CSI: Miami (HDTV)												The Cleaner
		70	70	70	APTN	News (N)		Tears	Fish Out	Spirit	Cashing In		Red Planet * (2000, Science Fiction)									
		37	37	37	BRVO	Street Legal		Pilgrimage		Bravo! Fact	Books-Film		An Ideal Husband *** (1999)									
		49	49	49	COM	Laughs	Comedy Now	Air Force	Good Morning	Cornier Gas	VIP		The Simpsons	South Park	MADtv							
		18	18	18	CNN	Situation Room-Wolf Blitzer		Lou Dobbs Tonight		Campbell Brown (N)		Larry King Live (N)		Cooper 360								
		38	38	38	DISC	How It's Made	How It's Made	Daily Planet Goes to Brazil		Doing Da Vinci "Catapult" (N)		American Loggers		Machines								
		34	34	34	HGTV	Holmes on Homes		House	Property	House	Extreme		Ext Living	Location	House							
		46	46	46	HIST	Legends	Legends	NCIS "Family Secret"		Jurassic Fight Club			Legends	Ice Road Truck								
		17	17	17	MM	disBand	MuchNews	2009 MuchMusic Video Awards														
		206	206	206	PIX	Along Came a Spider		Perfectly Normal *** (1991, Comedy), Michael Riley														
		39	39	39	SHOW	Trailer Park	Trailer Park	The Outer Limits		The Best Years (DVS)												
		40	40	40	SLICE	So Chic	Skin Deep	Skin Deep	Til Debt-Part	Til Debt-Part	Til Debt-Part		Til Debt-Part	Til Debt-Part	Til Debt-Part							
		21	21	21	TLC	What Not to Wear		What Not to Wear		What Not to Wear												
22	22	22	W	Style by Jury	Style by Jury	How Clean	Friends	Most Haunted (N)														
27	27	27	YTV	iCarly	iCarly	SpongeBob SquarePants		The Penguins	SpongeBob													

SATURDAY		HA	H	D	B	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	
		31	31	31	ABC	News	ABC News	Legend of the Seeker	Waydowntown ** (2000, Comedy)	Wipeout (HDTV)		Castle (HDTV)		Eli Stone (N)	
prime time	6/27/09	7	7	7	ASN	The Road to Avonlea				(DVS)		Comedy Now	Comedy Inc.	Lost	
		11	11	11	CBC	Sat. Report	Marketplace	The Nature of Things	The Week the Women Went			Short Film Faceoff (N)		Intelligence	
		32	32	32	CBS	News	CBS News	Entertainment Tonight	Without a Trace (HDTV)			(10:01) Harper's Island (N)		48 Hr. Mystery	
		6	6	6	CHH	A Wrinkle in Time ** (2003, Adventure), Alison Elliott			Doc			Doc "Daddy Dearest"		News	
sports		9	9	9	CJCH	Stompin' Tom	Law & Order: SVU			2009 MuchMusic Video Awards				News	
		36	36	36	FOX	MLB Baseball	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Cops	Cops		America's Most Wanted		Fox First	
		12	12	12	NBC	News	NBC News	Paid Program	Paid Program	Kings "Pilgrimage" (N)		Law & Order (HDTV)		Law/Ord SVU	
		55	55	55	SCOR	Soccer UEFA U-21 Championship	Semifinal -- Teams TBA.			MMA Show	Horse Racing			Soccer: U-21	
cable variety		53	53	53	TSN	SportsCentre	WEC WreckAge (N)			IndyCar Racing SunTrust Indy Challenge. (HDTV) (Live)					
		16	16	16	A&E	CSI: Miami "Burned"	CSI: Miami (HDTV)			Independence Day *** (1996, Science Fiction) Will Smith.					
		70	70	70	APTN	Cooking	MYTV	Arbor Life		The Mix	Living, Dream		Coyote Wails (2003, Mystery) Adam Beach.		
		37	37	37	BRVO	Arts & Minds	Bravo!Vibes	Live at the Rehearsal Hall		Spectacle: Elivs			Connie and Carla ** (2004, Comedy)		
		49	49	49	COM	Laughs	22 Minutes	Just for Laughs		Cornier Gas	VIP		The Simpsons	South Park	Jeffrey Ross
		18	18	18	CNN	Situation Room-Wolf Blitzer		Newsroom		Campbell Brown			Larry King Live		Newsroom
		38	38	38	DISC	How It's Made	How It's Made	Cash Cab	Cash Cab	Destroyed	Time Warp		Deadliest Catch		One Way Out
		34	48	48	HGTV	Holmes on Homes		Colin & Justin's Home Heist		SarahCottage	HGTV's Top		Million Dollar Listing		Makeover
		46	46	46	HIST	Metropolis "Paris"		Sinking an Aircraft Carrier		Crime Stories			Donnie Brasco (1997, Crime Drama)		
		17	17	17	MM	MuchMusic Video Awards	Wayne's World ** (1992, Comedy)			Mike Myers			Muchmusic Countdown		
		206	206	206	PIX	Collateral	(7:40) The Mask of Zorro *** (1998, Adventure)						Exit Wounds ** (2001, Action)		
		39	39	39	SHOW	The House Next Door (2006, Suspense) Lara Flynn Boyle.				To Be Fat Like Me (2007, Docudrama) Kaye Cuoco.					Smokin' Aces
40	40	40	SLICE	Rich Poor	Rich Poor	Real Housewives OC		Real Housewives OC			The Millionaire Matchmaker		Bulging Brides		
21	21	21	TLC	Serial ... (HDTV)		Serial ... (HDTV)		48 Hours: Hard Evidence			48 Hours: Hard Evidence		48 Hours		
22	22	22	W	Hwd 10 Best	Style by Jury	Serendipity ** (2001, Romance-Comedy) John Cusack.					Must Love Dogs (2005, Romance-Comedy)				
27	27	27	YTV	Survive This	Survive This	Survive This	Survive This	Survive This	Survive This		Survive This	Survive This	Prank Patrol		

SUNDAY	HA	H	D	B	7:00		7:30		8:00		8:30		9:00		9:30		10:00		10:30		11:00				
prime time 6/28/09	31	31	31	ABC	News	ABC News	Just Laughs	Home Videos	Extreme Makeover: Home	Impact (2008, Action), Benjamin Sadler															
	7	7	7	ASN	Smallville "Instinct"		Jeff Ltd.	Home Videos	Million Dollar Passport	Cold Case (HDTV)													Canada-Model		
	11	11	11	CBC	Heartland (DVS)		Bon Cop, Bad Cop (2006, Comedy)		Colin Foele.	CBC News: Sunday Night (N)													Doctor Who		
	32	32	32	CBS	Evening News	News	60 Minutes		Million Dollar Passport	Cold Case (HDTV)													The Unit		
	6	6	6	CJCH	16:9 Picture	King of Hill	King of Hill	American Dad	The Simpsons	Bob & Doug	Family Guy													American Dad	News
	9	9	9	CJHC	Corner Gas	Degrassi: TNG	Law & Order: SVU		Merlin (HDTV) (N)		Merlin (HDTV) (N)													News	
	36	36	36	FOX	Cold Case		King of Hill	American Dad	The Simpsons	King of Hill	Family Guy													American Dad	Fox First
	12	12	12	NBC	News	NBC News	Dateline NBC		Merlin (HDTV) (N)		Merlin (HDTV) (N)													Law/Ord SVU	
	55	55	55	SCOR	Sports Update	Facts-Fishing	The WWE Experience		BodogFight		Strikeforce													Pokerstars	
	53	53	53	TSN	ScoreCentre		2009 CFL Season Preview Show		(HDTV) (Live)		Nike Golf Invitational													SportsCentre	
sports	16	16	16	A&E	Gene Simmons		Simmons	Simmons	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Simmons													Simmons	HammerTime
	70	70	70	APTN	New Canoe	MYTV	The Mix	Living, Dream	Arbor Live		Skinwalkers (2002, Crime Drama), Wes Studi														
	37	37	37	BRVO	Spectacle: Elivs		Arts & Minds	Bravo! Fact	Eye on the Guy		Munich ~~~~ (2005, Suspense)														
	49	49	49	COM	Laughs	22 Minutes	Just for Laughs		Laughs	VIP	The Simpsons													South Park	The Office (N)
	18	18	18	CNN	Newsroom		Newsroom		Campbell Brown		Larry King Live													Newsroom	
	38	38	38	DISC	Cash Cab	How It's Made	MythBusters		Dirty Jobs		Dirty Jobs (N)													MythBusters	
	34	48	48	HGTV	Holmes in New Orleans		House	House	My First Place	Buy Me	Extreme Makeover: Home													Lead Potential	
	46	46	46	HIST	Finding the Fallen		Turning Points of History		Underworld Histories		The Departed (2006, Crime Drama)														
	17	17	17	MTV	Video on Trial	Video on Trial	So You Think You Can Dance		So You Think You Can Dance		So You Think You Can Dance													Muchmusc	
	cable variety	206	206	206	PIX	(6:40) Beverly Hills Ninja		(8:10) The Dead Zone (1983, Science Fiction)				Dances With Wolves (1990, Western)													
39		39	39	SHOW	Deep Blue	Trailer Park	The Guard (HDTV)		Love Sick: Secrets of a Sex Addict	(2008, Docudrama)	Rescue Me														
40		40	40	SLICE	X-Weighted		Instant Beauty Pageant		Janice Dickinson Modeling		Real Housewives NYC													Style-Famous	
21		21	21	CLTC	Untold Stories of the E.R.		Jon & Kate Plus 8		Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate													Jon & Kate	
22		22	22	W	Must Love Dog	Hwd 10 Best	W Expert	Style by Jury	They Came Back (2007, Suspense)	Mia Kirshner.														Obituary	
27		27	27	YTV	The Great Outdoors ~*~ (1988, Comedy), John Candy				SpungeBob	Prank Patrol	In Real Life													Adrenaline	

Professor Layton more than a game

KATHY BUCKWORTH
for Metro Canada

Until technology can auto-program Best Parenting Practices 2.0, Moms' lives will continue to be full of challenges, decisions, and judgments that can leave us frustrated, challenged and downright perplexed.

Just once, it would be nice to solve a parenting puzzle and figure out the best way to move forward, and even find a prize at the end (which doesn't involve giving out a time out or contemplating boarding school).

Well, I think I've found the next best thing to help alleviate some of this pent-up frustration in not finding the "right" answer to every parenting challenge. It's an escape into a magical world where an enchanting village has an accompanying soundtrack of soft Paris-style café music, where one can meet charming gentlemen, and mingle with some upper-class ladies over tea. Oh, my kids have tried to go there with me ... but they can't. Because I'm the one holding the Nintendo DSi unit right now.

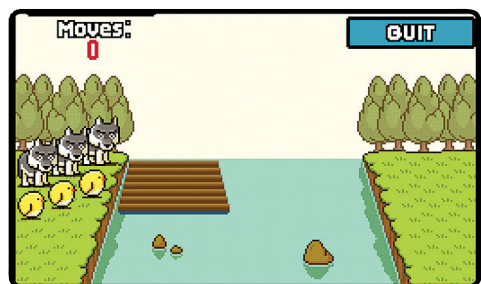
Professor Layton and the Curious Village is more than a game — it's a story, an experience, and a fresh relief from the day-to-day puzzles we face.

As I worked my way around the charming village of St. Mystere, I was asked to help the professor and his young charge solve some classic and some original brainteasers, in order to earn coins, find pieces of old paintings; even track down a cranky cat.

I was understandably reluctant to pass the DSi to my kids — I just figured out I need to open that blue door! Give it back! Ten more minutes! What's great about this game is that many of the brain-teasers can be redeployed on paper, for the kids to work on while I discover what's through the clock tower, and why that villager is so disagreeable.

Nintendo Canada's Matt Ryan says the game was developed with a family experience in mind.

"The puzzles in Professor Layton and the Curious Village can be solved by an individual but there is the



Professor Layton and the Curious Village gives Nintendo DSi players the chance to solve classic and original brainteasers.

opportunity to have fun as a group when you put your minds together," he says. "The characters are a laugh and the puzzles vary in difficulty ... don't worry, even if the whole family is stumped, you can use clues to help out."

There's the classic wolf/chick crossing the river game, silly riddles involving candles that are "left over" at the end, and even a match stick dead dog. What more could you want?

Of course, as a busy mom, I only get to play the game in short bursts of time — darn kids and their homework, needing to be fed, and bedtime — so I love the fact that my progress in the game is recapped every time I start it up. I also like the fact that — unlike human children and most adults — the people in the story only talk to you when

"Don't worry, even if the whole family is stumped, you can use clues to help out."

Matt Ryan

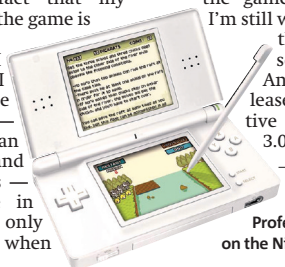
you tap them with the Nintendo pen. If only life could imitate this art.

My favourite puzzle so far has been the Bickering Brothers, whom I had to strategically place around a dinner table, with certain brothers only getting along with certain other brothers. I do this every night at the dinner table with my own four squabbling children, so I solved this one in no time flat. In the game, that is.

I'm still working on the real life solution.

And the release of Positive Parenting 3.0.

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34 movies&entertainment

Zohn's cancer fight

Ethan Zohn is now halfway through his three-month chemotherapy treatment for Hodgkin's Lymphoma. In two new video diaries, filmed at his home in Manhattan, the now-bald Survivor: Africa winner shows viewers the ups and downs of his struggle. **PEOPLE.COM**

Going Out

Mix of Six

Multicultural Festival

When: Friday through Sunday

Where: Alderney Landing
This popular event is back with events throughout the weekend, including a Supershow concert Friday night featuring Paula Cole, Divine Browne and Sarah Slean.

CATCH Nova Scotia Seafood Festival

When: Saturday and Sunday

Where: Cunard Centre
The gourmet seafood festival includes live local musical performances, a chef's competition and taste-testing. Visit novascotiaseafoodfestival.ca for full details.

Queen's Colour

When: Saturday, 10 a.m.

Where: Garrisons Grounds, Citadel Hill
Thousands of people are expected as the aging Queen's Colour will be retired and replaced with all the pageantry you'd expect for such a ceremony.

The Amazing Kreskin

When: Friday, 8 p.m.

Where: Schooner Showroom, Casino Nova Scotia
Back by popular demand, Kreskin creates theatrical presentations using the unusual power of the human mind with rare combinations of wit and showmanship. Tickets are \$30.75.

Canadian canoe/kayak world qualifier

When: Saturday and Sunday

Where: Lake Banook
This event is the last chance to qualify for Team Canada at the world championships this summer in Dartmouth.

A Taste of Tuscany

When: Saturday, 7 p.m.

Where: The Lord Nelson hotel
A night of culinary magic is there for you as this event is a tour of wines and flavours of Tuscany, with featured guest Mark DeWolf. Tickets are \$299 for a couple. ticketweb.ca.

Metro's 7th Heaven: Metro taps what's hot right now

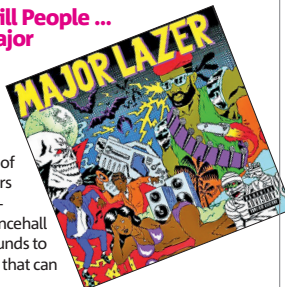
1 will.i.am

MUSICIAN
It's shaping up to be a great summer for the artist. First, he scored a massive hit with the new Black Eyed Peas album *The E.N.D.* Then, he bagged an even bigger smash with his latest war-of-words with Perez Hilton. God knows if will.i.am's manager actually assaulted the celeb blogger but we all know who everyone's rooting for.



2 Guns Don't Kill People ... Lazers do: Major Lazer

ALBUM
If you are a thinking-Jamaica-going-downtown kind of person, this might just turn out to be the soundtrack of your summer. Indie mixmasters Diplo and Switch take the sun-friendly genres of dub and dancehall and mash it up with urban sounds to create a wildly raucous album that can get any porch party swinging.

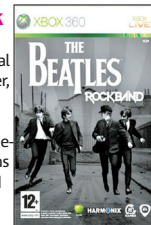


3 David Lynch

ARTIST
The king of cinematic curveballs turns to music — not one album, but two. First came *Dark Night of the Soul*, a collaboration with cult musicians Danger Mouse and Sparklehorse. Now there's word that he is a lyricist and producer for the upcoming Fox *Bat Strategy*, a tribute album for a musician who worked on Lynch's groundbreaking TV series *Twin Peaks*.

4 Intro to The Beatles Rock Band

VIDEO
The wait for this fall's magical mystery tour just got a little tougher, thanks to this jaw-dropping promo for arguably the year's most hotly anticipated game. Created by Gorillaz animator Pete Candeland, the 160-second eye-candy succinctly sums the band's history and gets you nicely warmed up for the real action. Check it out at thebeatlesrockband.com/cinematic.php



5 Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen

FILM
OK, the reviews are uniformly bad. And the accusations of racial stereotyping in robot banter are not helping either. But, look at the upside: Plenty of Michael Bay-approved CGI, more of your favourite bots, a hotter-than-ever Megan Fox and a cuter-than-ever Shia LeBeouf. It's your call.

6 Confessions of a Shopaholic

DVD
Recession cramping your style? Get some retail therapy with the film version of the Sophie Kinsella bestseller, starring Isla Fisher as the swipe-happy New York protagonist. Of course, it ends with the obligatory lesson on our credit habits but not before you witness some of the best shopping sprees ever committed to screen.

7 Why Your World Is About To Get A Whole Lot Smaller: Jeff Rubin

BOOK
This No. 1 bestseller on several non-fiction charts gets back to the basics: Oil and how dwindling supplies will zap our SUVs and five-bedroom bungalows to bite-sized proportions. Sounds awful but when CIBC's chief economist gazes at the crystal ball, you listen.

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Manson admits cutting himself

In a recent interview with Spin, shock rocker Marilyn Manson reveals he was so torn up over the break-up between he and actress Evan Rachel Wood that he intentionally cut himself 158 times on Christmas Day. POPEATER.COM

Entertainment

Still complicated?

Season two of Denise Richards' reality show leaves controversies behind

BRIAN COULTON
for Metro Canada

She's made peace with her actor ex-husband Charlie Sheen, been lauded for her honesty during an interview with Howard Stern and said she's even friendly with former foe Perez Hilton. But actress and former model Denise Richards said her life is still complicated.

"Yes, I've gone through a lot of complicated stuff, but now it's a different kind of complication — being a single parent in Hollywood, trying to date, working and balancing my career with my kids," she said over the phone while vacationing in Hawaii.

Richards is the star of her eponymous reality show, *Denise Richards: It's Complicated*, its second

season presently airing Wednesday nights on E!. She said she signed on for the show's inaugural season to quash rumours floating around about her — a different story every week for two years, she estimates.

"I'm an actress. I've done a lot of movies and been in a lot of TV shows and wanted people to make a judgment off of watching me instead of reading about me," she said.

But now that she believes the program has drawn people away from "negative press" about her, Richards said the public is beginning to know a different side of the star.

"I think people see that, at the end of the day, I'm a single mom and relatable to a lot of people that have gone through a horrible divorce, lost a parent or have a parent that has to move on with their life,

and it's hard," she said. "At the end of the day, that's what sells the show — your fans."

Fans of her show can expect to see Richards moving forward from past con-

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troversies this season, she said. New episodes observe Richards' experience on ABC's *Dancing with the Stars*, a visit to her old home in Chicago and her live-in father's first dating attempt in 40 years, among other storylines.

Such principally com-



Actress and former model Denise Richards, star of *It's Complicated*.

Monster pair try on genes

FILM The producer and cinematographer of *Monster* are taking on another female-themed drama.

Clark Peterson, who produced the Charlize Theron-starring Oscar winner, and Steven Bernstein, who served as its cameraman, will collaborate on *Decoding Annie Parker*, a story of the discovery of the breast-cancer gene. Peterson will produce and Bernstein will make his directorial debut.

The movie centres on Parker, a real-life breast-cancer patient who believed her illness had a genetic component, and it weaves in the story of the researchers whose mission it was to determine the role DNA plays in the deadly disease.

Doctors dismissed Parker's beliefs, but she was ahead of her time: The group's research eventually led to the discovery of BRCA1, which is associated with breast and ovarian cancer.

Screenwriter Michael Moss, a doctor who knew of Parker's story from medical circles, is writing the screenplay.

The casting process has begun, and the filmmakers aim to shoot this year.

REUTERS

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The successful man is the one who finds out what is the matter with his business before his competitors do.
— Roy L. Smith



Actor Jonathan Rhys Meyers has reportedly been arrested for hitting a waiter at a bar in Charles de Gaulle airport, according to AFP. Meyers, who is fresh out of rehab for alcohol, will appear in a Paris court in September. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Meyers in hot water

Celebrity Buzz

Beyoncé's first family fans

FAMOUS FANS Beyoncé had some special guests at her concert in Washington, D.C., usmagazine.com reports.

Michelle Obama brought daughters Malia and Sasha — along with her friends from Chicago and some of her White House staff — to the singer's show at the Verizon Center Wednesday night.

Before she belted Single

Ladies (Put a Ring On It), Beyoncé gave a shout-out to the first daughters, the Washington Post reports.

"This is for Sasha and Malia — and all my single ladies!" she said.

This isn't the first time Bey-

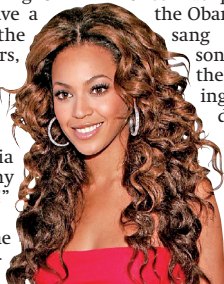
oncé has performed for the Obama family. She sang the classic song, At Last, for the Obamas during their first dance on inauguration night in January.

Shortly after the inauguration festivities, Beyoncé told

Vogue magazine that Michelle considered her a role model for her girls.

"She told me she was very happy that her girls have someone like me to look up to," Beyoncé said. "And I'm like, 'Oh, my God.' You have to feel fortunate to be one of the people whom parents don't mind their children looking up to."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Angie's jealous side

THREE'S A CROWD Angelina Jolie may be completely happy with her life with Brad Pitt, but that doesn't mean she's OK with his ex-wife still getting in touch.

Jolie is reportedly peeved



about Jennifer Aniston's alleged habit of sending Pitt inspirational text messages and odd gifts to his production office.

Jolie has even warned Aniston to back off, according to the Daily Mirror.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Katy really loves pizza

A REAL FOOD LOVER Katy Perry set her fans' appetites racing recently when she posted a photo to her Twitter account of herself naked in a hotel bathtub, her body obscured by a tray holding a pizza. "Why is it



that after not eating for three days all I can think of is food," she wrote.

"Food is smiling at me ... luring me with sexual seduction." The singer had been recuperating in Milan for three days after a bout of the flu.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Jen and Bradley an item: Source

SECRET NO MORE Jennifer Aniston and Bradley Cooper are a pair, according to sources for Star magazine.

The pair was spotted sharing an intimate dinner in New York City recently, when a source "went over to say hi to them, and I noticed they were holding hands under the table because they let go to shake my hand."

METRO WORLD NEWS



Murder charges for Billy Bob's daughter in tot's death

TURN OF EVENTS Billy Bob Thornton's daughter has been charged with first-degree murder, female-first.co.uk reports.

Amanda Brumfield — who is estranged from her actor father — was also indicted on aggravated child abuse and aggravated manslaughter charges on Wednesday, following the death of a one-year-old girl in her care in Florida last October.

The 29-year-old —

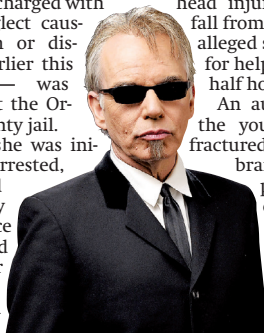
who was charged with child neglect causing harm or disability earlier this month — was booked at the Orange County jail.

When she was initially arrested, Brumfield reportedly told police the child died after sustaining a

head injury following a fall from a playpen. It is alleged she did not call for help for two-and-a-half hours.

An autopsy showed the youngster had a fractured skull and a brain injury, prompting the death to be ruled a homicide, the website adds.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

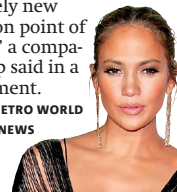


Jennifer takes a hit in recession

CORPORATE SPEAK Jennifer Lopez has been forced to halt production on her clothing line, Sweetface, according to E! News.

The company is putting a positive spin on it, though, saying the move is to "prepare to reintroduce the brand in the near future with new messaging points and an entirely new fashion point of view," a company rep said in a statement.

METRO WORLD NEWS



Rachel asks for privacy

PRIVATE PAIN Rachel Hunter is begging the media leave her in peace as she comes to terms with her broken engagement.

The 39-year-old was due to marry Canadian hockey star Jarret Stoll, 27, in August, but he reportedly called off the wedding this week, without giving his explanation.

Hunter's representative has confirmed the

breakup, and is asking the press to let the model cope outside of the spotlight.

A statement reads, "The August wedding of Rachel Hunter and Jarret Stoll has been cancelled and the couple have decided to split. We ask you (the media) to respect Rachel and her family's privacy during this extremely upsetting time."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Jackie O and Marlon Brando?

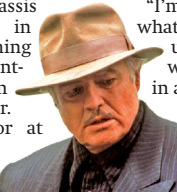
SECRET TRYST? A new book claims that actor Marlon Brando and former U.S. first lady Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis had an affair in 1964, something Brando had wanted to include in his 1994 memoir.

But an editor at Random House

who was friends with Kennedy encouraged him to leave the details out, according to Page Six.

"I'm not sure she knew what she was doing sexually, but she did it well," Brando wrote in an excerpt from the new book.

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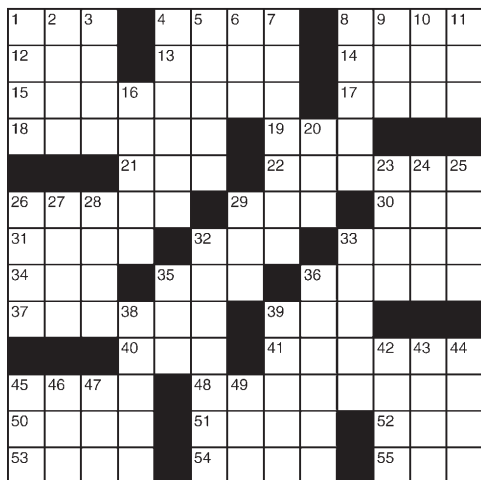
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metro

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Take Five



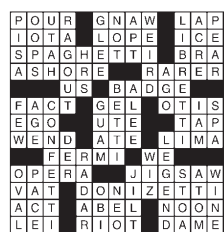
Crossword across

- 1 Totally dominate
4 Right on the map?
8 Liking a lot
12 Shooter ammo
13 Jubilation
14 Disposition
15 Where salmon go to spawn
17 Motivate
18 Gazing one
19 Chart format
21 "Guinness Book" suffix
22 Transmission
- to a spacecraft
26 Rural buildings
29 "No seats"
30 Dress in
31 Supplement-ed, with "out"
32 Bookkeeper (Abbr.)
33 — gin fizz
34 Dead heat
35 Happiness
36 Public squabble
37 "You betcha!"
39 Spring mo.
- 40 Smokestack output
41 Shamelessly bold
45 Dixieland music
48 Entry on a team's schedule
50 Bassoon's cousin
51 Wine's aroma
52 Yank
53 Implement
54 Active one
55 Early bird?

Crossword down

- 1 Piece of work
2 Slobbered
3 Houston acronym
4 Exit
5 On the qui vive
6 Poseidon's realm
7 Deep-fried recipe
8 Urge
9 Neither mate
10 As well
11 Peculiar
16 Pollster's find
20 Wall St. debut
23 Between jobs
24 Lunchtime, often
25 Banjo supporter
26 — carotene
- 27 In the same family
28 50-Across need
29 Agent
32 Rancher
33 Raw-boned person
35 Alcott book, "— Boys"
36 More agile
38 The Baxters' maid
39 Humiliate
42 Fill till full
43 Complacent
44 Safecracker
45 Least bit
46 Blood-group letters
47 Menagerie
49 Court

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:



2	3	9	8	1	7	6	5	4
8	5	1	4	2	6	7	9	3
6	4	7	9	3	5	8	2	1
5	1	6	7	9	3	4	8	2
9	2	3	6	8	4	1	7	5
7	8	4	2	5	1	9	3	6
3	6	5	1	7	9	2	4	8
4	9	2	5	6	8	3	1	7
1	7	8	3	4	2	5	6	9

Find today's answers + play more games at metronews.ca

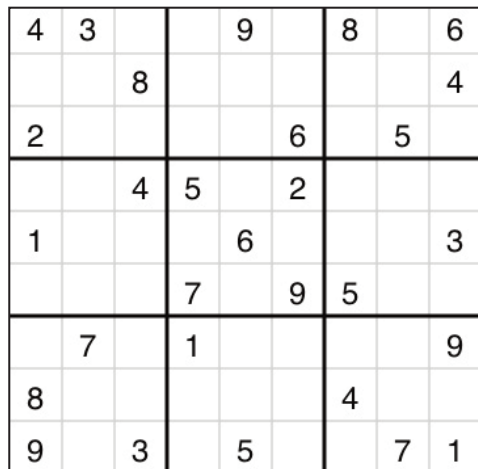
SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:

- Under 13 minGenius
13-17 minScholar
17-21 minSmart
21-25 minNot bad
25+ minKeep practising

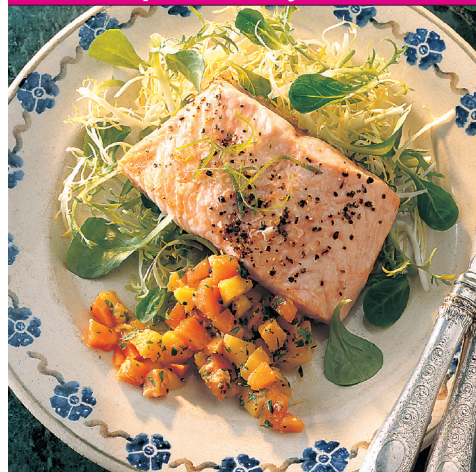
Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone — one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.



Metro Recipe of the Day



Salmon with Tropical Fruit Salsa

INGREDIENTS:

- 4 salmon steaks
1 tbsp (15 ml) olive oil

SALSA:

- 1 small mango
1 small papaya
1 in. (2.5cm) piece fresh ginger
Handful of mint leaves
1 lime
Salt and black pepper

METHOD:

- Preheat grill to moderate and cover rack with foil.
- For salsa, cut mango in half, remove flesh, dice finely and put into bowl. Cut papaya in half, scoop out and discard seeds, finely dice flesh and add to mango.
- Peel ginger and grate into bowl. Rinse, dry and chop mint and add to bowl.

- Wash wax off lime. Remove few shreds of zest for garnish. Grate the rest and add to salsa. Squeeze juice and add half to bowl, reserving remainder.
- Season salsa with salt and plenty of pepper; mix well.
- Put salmon steaks, skin sides down, onto foil on broiler rack. Brush with olive oil, season and sprinkle with remaining lime juice. Broil 6-8 minutes without turning. Fish is done when flesh flakes easily.
- Serve grilled salmon garnished with lime zest and accompanied by salsa.

SERVES 4



Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

sallybrompton.com

ARIES

MARCH 21-APRIL 20



The winds of fate may be blowing you here, there and everywhere at the moment but there is no need to panic.

TAURUS

APRIL 21-MAY 21



Something you were barely half-hearted about yesterday will fill you with enthusiasm today. What a difference 24 hours makes.

LIBRA

SEPT 23-OCT 23



You may have big plans for the next few months but as mind planet Mercury is at odds with Saturn today you are strongly advised to wait.

SCORPIO

OCT 24-NOV 22



You are not the sort to take much notice of alternative arguments but someone will give you some seriously good advice today.

GEMINI

MAY 22-JUNE 21



The more others say you need to act now the more likely it is they are thinking of their own needs rather than your own.

SAGITTARIUS

NOV 23-DEC 21



Not everything may be going your way at the moment but the world is still a beautiful place and there are still enough heroes to inspire you.

CANCER

JUNE 22-JULY 22



Give your imagination permission to roam and don't reject what it comes up with just because it seems so outrageous.

CAPRICORN

DEC 22-JAN 20



You may have no solid evidence that someone is trying to cheat you but your instincts are screaming at you to be on your guard.

LEO

JULY 23-AUG 23



According to the planets you are very close to the tipping point, where one small adjustment or alteration somehow changes everything.

AQUARIUS

JAN 21-FEB 18



You may not be the world's best at working with other people but, like it or not, you are part of a team.

VIRGO

AUG 24-SEPT 22



The more someone points out your errors, the more likely it is they are trying to destroy your confidence — and the more determined you must be.

PISCES

FEB 19-MARCH 20



No matter what unfounded rumours a certain individual may have been spreading you must not bear a grudge.

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